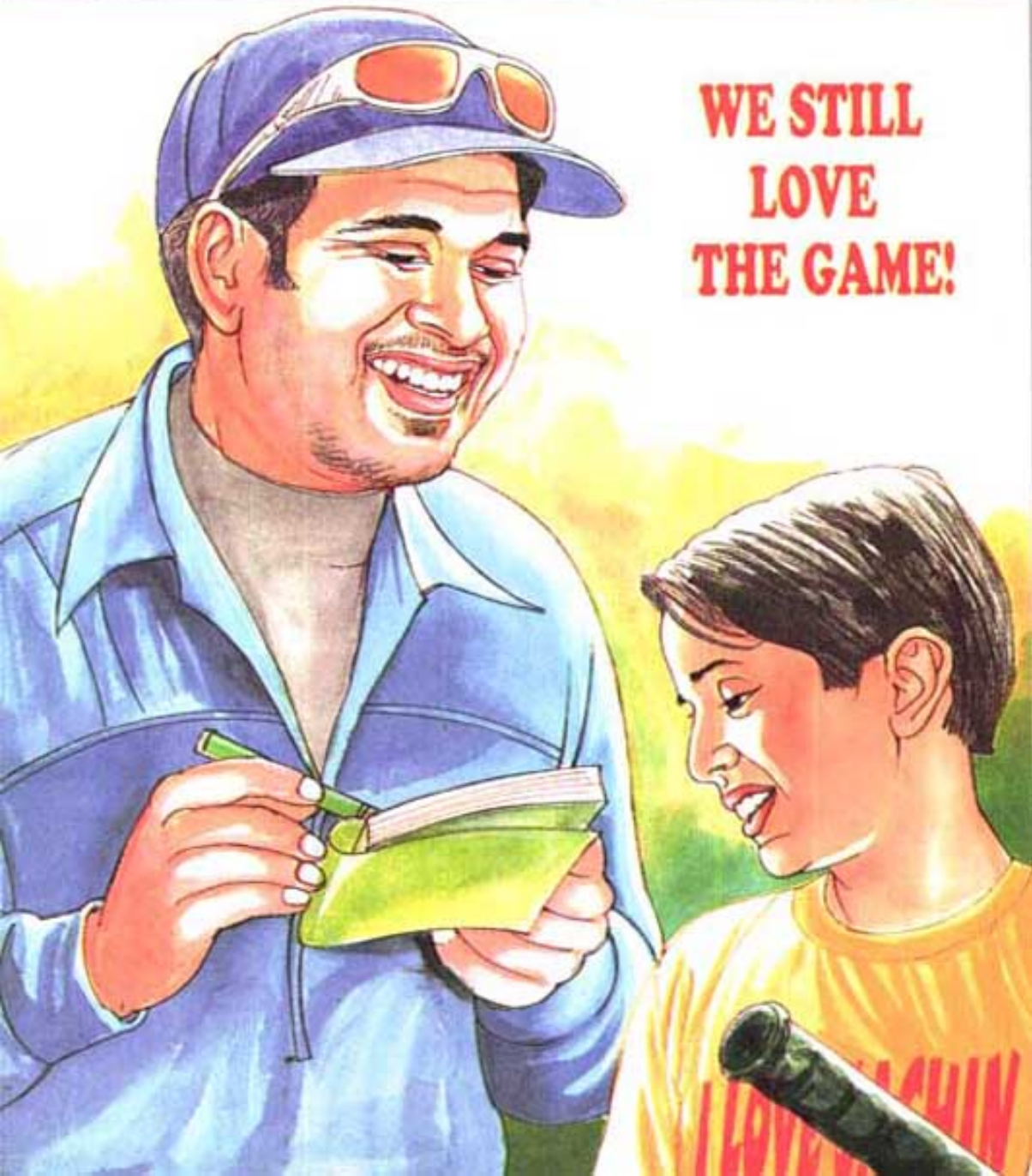
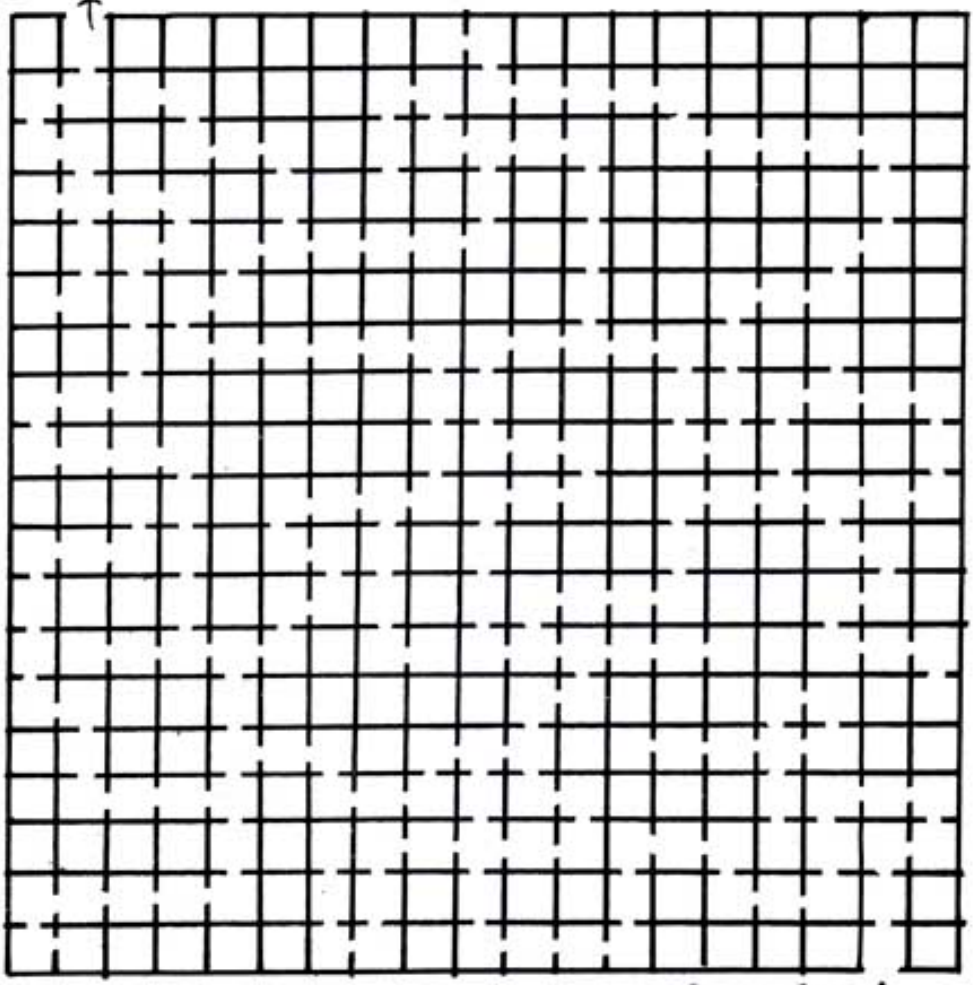
GOKULAM

Rs.6/-
MARCH 2003

The monthly magazine for children



A MAZE GAME



Find your way to little Teddy. If you hit dead ends twice, your turn is over. Give the next person a chance. The person who finds Teddy is the winner ofcourse!

Note : Do not trace with a pencil. Move your finger through the maze or use an 'used up' refill of a ball pen.

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children. — William Canton

GOKULAM

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GRANDMA WORM

I THANK YOU DEAR GRANDMA...

Dear Grandma,

I did just what you asked me to. I told my teacher all about my friend copying from me. My teacher understood my problem and she has now changed my place in class. I thank you dear grandma worm.

– S. Charupriya, Chennai

The art of

Dear Grandma,

I am a student of class IX. My parents keep telling me that I am old enough to acquire some general knowledge. I am asked to see sports events on T.V. But I am not interested in sports. What am I to do?

- Abhirup Sen, Kolkata

Dear Abhirup,

I agree with your parents when they say that you are old enough to acquire some general knowledge. GK is necessary to be sociable and to be able to take part in conversations. It also builds self confidence. But sports is only a part of G.K. Go through a news paper every day for a few minutes. Condense the important events of the day including sports and note them in a diary. Read as many G.K. books as possible. Internet browsing too will help but you should not waste your time looking up trivial matters. Above all, remember that your favourite magazine Gokulam has a fund of G.K. information. Once you get involved, you will have so much of G.K. information at your command that your parents will no longer have to remind you about it.

★ ★ ★

Everybody around me says that I am a good public speaker. I have performed 15 - 16 times but still I become nervous whenever I am called to speak. I get

frightened and forget my lines. Please help.

- Vineet Vijayan,
New Delhi

Dear Vineet,

If you want to become a good speaker you have to work hard. First of all you must understand the subject. Study the problem and find out the solution. You can then write down in your own words a speech which will cover both the problem and the solution. Go through it once or twice. Is it crisp and upto the point? Is it interesting? Should you add a joke or two which would be relevant? Above all, is it clear? Make

Public Speaking

improvements; rewrite. Read it two or three times. Stand before a full length mirror and watch yourself delivering the speech. It need not be verbatim as written down. But the salient points should not be left out.

A speech which is read, doesn't make as much impression, as an extempore speech. But notes are okay. You can make short notes of the important points and keep the sheet of paper before you in order not to forget the sequence. Remember, it is only practise which makes perfection. In due course, you will completely overcome your stage fright.

Love,
Grandma worm

LET US ENJOY!

May 2003 issue comes to you as a

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

featuring

- Riddles
- Puzzles
- Jokes
- Games
- Activities
- Crosswords
- Drama
- Travel
- Eating out
- Hobbies
- Health
- Fashion

Rush in your contributions to :

Editor,
Gokulam,
Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097

Last Date : 05.04.2003.

Mention 'Holiday Special' on the envelope.

HELLO DOCTOR COLUMN

Your next topic : **CARE OF SKIN**

Send in your queries to

Dr. G. Ganesan
C/o Gokulam
Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097

Last Date : 20.03.2003.

Write on postcard only.

Give details of your name, age, class, school and residential address.

And now we're on the verge of the 2003 world cup in South Africa. Exactly twenty years after India achieved the impossible. Can they pull it off this time around? Well, quite frankly, I would say it is unlikely. The thing is, India's strength is in its batting, which is on awful form at the moment. With the exception of Yuvraj Singh, no one did well on the tour to New Zealand. What we need is to win the toss in our first game, against Holland, and hope that the batsmen find their touch. Our bowling, well, they did really well against New Zealand, but they didn't quite have the killer instinct. Still, its the best bowling we've had for a while - Zaheer and Srinath are forming a good partnership, and if Nehra can add some consistency to his obvious talent, that frontline looks good. After that, we have the spinner, either Harbhajan or Kumble. The fifth bowler is the toughie, and if the wicket is a little slow, Sehwag can be utilised to the max.

Well, let us leave them for a while and go down memory lane...

History of the World Cup of Cricket

We all know that the first World Cup of cricket was in 1975, but would you believe that the first time something like this was tried, was way back in 1912? When your parents weren't born! The only three test playing nations back then were England, Australia and South Africa. This

ABHINAV RAMNARAYAN

WE STILL LOVE THE GAME!

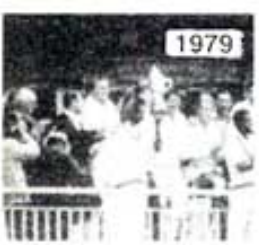
'World Cup' was a bit of a flop, and wasn't attempted again until, of course, 1975 when the six test playing nations England, Australia, New Zealand, West Indies, India and Pakistan, decided to give the World Cup of cricket another chance. The venue was England. Two new cricketing nations were added - East Africa and Sri Lanka. Little did people realize that Sri Lanka were to win this event 21 years down the line!

Australia and West Indies cruised into the final, which turned out to be a thriller. Chasing a target of 292, Australia fell just 17 runs short. This made West Indies the champions.

They won the next World Cup in 1979 as well powering their way to victory, beating England in the final. No one could stand up to the awesome foursome, Joel Garner, Andy Roberts, Colin Croft and Michael Holding.

The next world Cup, 1983 [a year that we all know very well] was expected to go their way as well. But it was not to be. But was India the team that would stop this irresistible force? It was unbelievable, even ridiculous at the time. Australia and England had a runners up trophy each in the previous cups, and Pakistan and New Zealand had reached the semis. But India was nowhere on the cricketing map. And yet they did it, defending a meagre total of 183 in the final!

In 1987, the venue shifted, for the first time, from England to the Indian sub-continent. This time, West Indies were not the same team, and they failed to get through even the first stage. The entire sub-continent was in anticipation of an India – Pakistan final, but it was not to be, and traditional rivals England and Australia were pitted against each other in the final. It was an absolute



thriller at Eden Gardens, with England falling seven runs short of lifting the Cup!

The first World Cup in Australia, in 1992, saw one major event take place – the reinstatement of South Africa. And what a come back it was for them! They reached the semis, and lost to England because of a ridiculous rain rule, which caused the umpires to reduce the number of balls left from 13 to 1, making it impossible for them to win. It was Pakistan's year. Inzamam's knock in the semi finals saw Pakistan through. The incomparable Imran Khan lifted the trophy, with Wasim Akram getting the man-of-the-match award.

* the awesome foursome

The 1996 World Cup in the Indian sub continent had its exciting moments. Pakistan and India squared off in the quarterfinals, and India went through. Australia came back from the dead, with very good captaincy from Mark Taylor, and even better bowling from Shane Warne, to go through to the final. Sri Lanka were brilliant. They did not lose a single match in the tournament and were well-deserved winners!

The 1999 World Cup, to be honest, had only one saving grace – the two matches between Australia and South Africa. These two cricketing superpowers put up a wonderful show. The final was a washout, Australia trounced Pakistan, quite unlike the thriller when the two teams met in the preliminary stage. Klusener, who was to the 1999 World Cup what Jayasuriya was to the 1996 World Cup, won almost every match for South Africa, and he almost won the semi final for them as well, but not quite!

Cricket (there's enough proof at that) is an unpredictable game, even more so than soccer, or tennis or any other game. The better team doesn't always win in cricket, unless there is a huge gap between the quality of the two sides. Considering this, is it possible for India to get through their very tough group and make it to the super six... to the semis... and to the grand finals...

Well, whatever be the outcome, the fact remains that...

We still love the game!

Cover Illustration : **Aras**

Harry Potter Mania

Rowling has revealed only two sentences from the fifth book, yet to be released.

* "In a hot summary evening when nobody would feel like going outside, a boy called Harry Potter was lying face down on the grass." (Opening lines)

* "Sit down Harry. I am going to tell you what I should have told you five years ago." (Dumbledore to Harry)

Other rumours :

- Lupin comes back to teach at Hogwarts
- Fleur Delacour becomes a Potion teacher
- Krum becomes assistant flying teacher
- Hermione becomes a prefect

-Gowthaman, Std.IX, AIHSS, Trichy

Are Dumbledore and Voldemort the same persons?

At first on reading this statement, the heart revolts against it. But there are some disturbing facts that cannot be ignored. Dumbledore is the only person who can defeat Voldemort and instill fear in him. Also, thoughts of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde come to my mind. While Voldemort is evil personified, Dumbledore is the embodiment of goodness. Could it be that Voldemort and Dumbledore are two sides of the same coin? I think it is possible. But all said and done, I would certainly prefer this statement to be false.

- Ankita Shreeram, Std.VIII, Holy Angels HS, Mumbai

THOUGHTS ABOUT HARRY POTTER

There may be internet rumours that professor Albus Dumbledore and Lord Voldemort are one and the same person. But I do not believe so. Because, if it had been true, then Dumbledore could have killed Harry anytime in his four years at Hogwarts. Also, in the fourth book, Voldemort was in the forests of Albania when Peter Petigrew helped him to rise to power. Whereas, Dumbledore was at Hogwarts.

The rumour is absolute rubbish because Dumbledore was the only person Voldemort was afraid of. And also, it was Albus Dumbledore himself who informed Lily and James Potter to go into hiding as Voldemort was after them.

So, Harry Potter fans, just don't believe this rumour!

- Vasudha Murlidhar, Std. VIII, Jawahar Vidyalaya, Chennai

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

★ You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail. However, there is no guarantee that it will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contributions to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your **- Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

WISH YOU GOOD LUCK! - **Editor**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2003, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize. Collect your certificates and keep them carefully.

✉ I have read the February issue. I was terribly excited on seeing the cover story on Harry Potter. I am grateful to you for having published such a superb cover page and story. Please do continue to give us more information and pictures of Harry Potter.

– K. Sai Brinda, Hyderabad.

✉ Gokulam has captured the spirit of Harry Potter very well. The cover story was

superb and the personality quiz a novel idea! The story 'joy of letter writing was nice, cementing my belief that email can never replace postal letters.

– Ankita Shreeram, Mumbai.

✉ I read the February issue. It was both informative and enjoyable. Cover story on Harry Potter, star rendezvous with Madhavan, puzzles, crossword contest... A real feast for the intellect, with lot of variety!

– Karishma Anand, Chennai.

✉ This morning I received the February issue of Gokulam. I was simply awestruck on seeing the wonderful

LETTER BOX

cover of Harry Potter. I glanced through the pages and, as usual, found the entire book very interesting. But what really caught my mind was the crossword contest. I ran to fetch my dictionary...

– H. Sagar, Bangalore.

✉ Gokulam is an exciting magazine with lots of stories, puzzles, jokes, articles and picture stories. I request the editor to increase the number of pages of Gokulam and make it a fortnightly.

– N. Viknesh, Coimbatore.

✉ I have just come across this simply superb magazine. I look forward to it so much because it takes me back to my teenage years. My son, a seven year old picks up the book as soon as it arrives. I read aloud to him. The children who contribute articles seem to be an enthusiastic and talented lot. Keep up your good work.

– Rani Sumathi, Penang, Malaysia.

✉ We wish Gokulam can give us more information about sports. This will encourage us to perform at National level.

– Raga & Sangeeth, Bangalore.

✉ Thank you for publishing my jokes in the February issue. I showed it to all my friends and this has encouraged them to send in their articles to Gokulam too.

– J. Calvin Chris Benjamin, Chennai.

✉ Being in Std XII this year does not give me much time to read other books or write poems which is one of my favourite hobbies. But I can tell you one thing. I don't miss reading Gokulam, for, when I read it, I feel relaxed and refreshed. This helps me when I get back to my studies.

– T. Sankamithirai, Chennai.

✉ Gokulam is creative and educative. It is our family's 'favourite'. It is wonderful to note the manner in which children express their love and affection for the magazine by sending in articles.

– Anjali & Sridevi, Pune.

✉ Grandma worm is exteremely helpful. Thanks to her, I am beginning to understand my problems by myself and I am also able to find a solution for them.

– B. Janani, Chennai.

A FEAST FOR THE INTELLECT!

Soory was frustrated! In spite of all his best efforts, he could not concentrate on his studies. Every time he opened his school books, his thoughts circled around Raju, Srinivas and Venkat and he felt they were laughing at him derisively. He felt dejected and depressed.

His mother seeing Soory feeling depressed, tried to console him and encourage him. But it was of no avail. Finally, she approached a saint of a nearby mutt, to seek his blessings.

Soory prostrated before the saint. The saint asked him the reason for his coming to see him.

Soory replied. "Swamiji! I hate Raju, Srinivas and Venkat. I am jealous and envious of them. I'm not able to beat them in the class examinations. I want you to bless me, so that I can do better than them."

The saint simply smiled and did not utter a word. Soory returned home disappointed! He neglected his studies even more. This only resulted in him going further down the grades.

A family friend who visited Soory asked him what had happened. Soory narrated all. The friend listened patiently and advised "Please meet the saint again and rephrase your request."

Soory did. He went again and sat before the saint. The saint asked "Child, why have you come to see me again?"

"Ji! I want you to bless me to concentrate on my studies and improve

Soory's Story

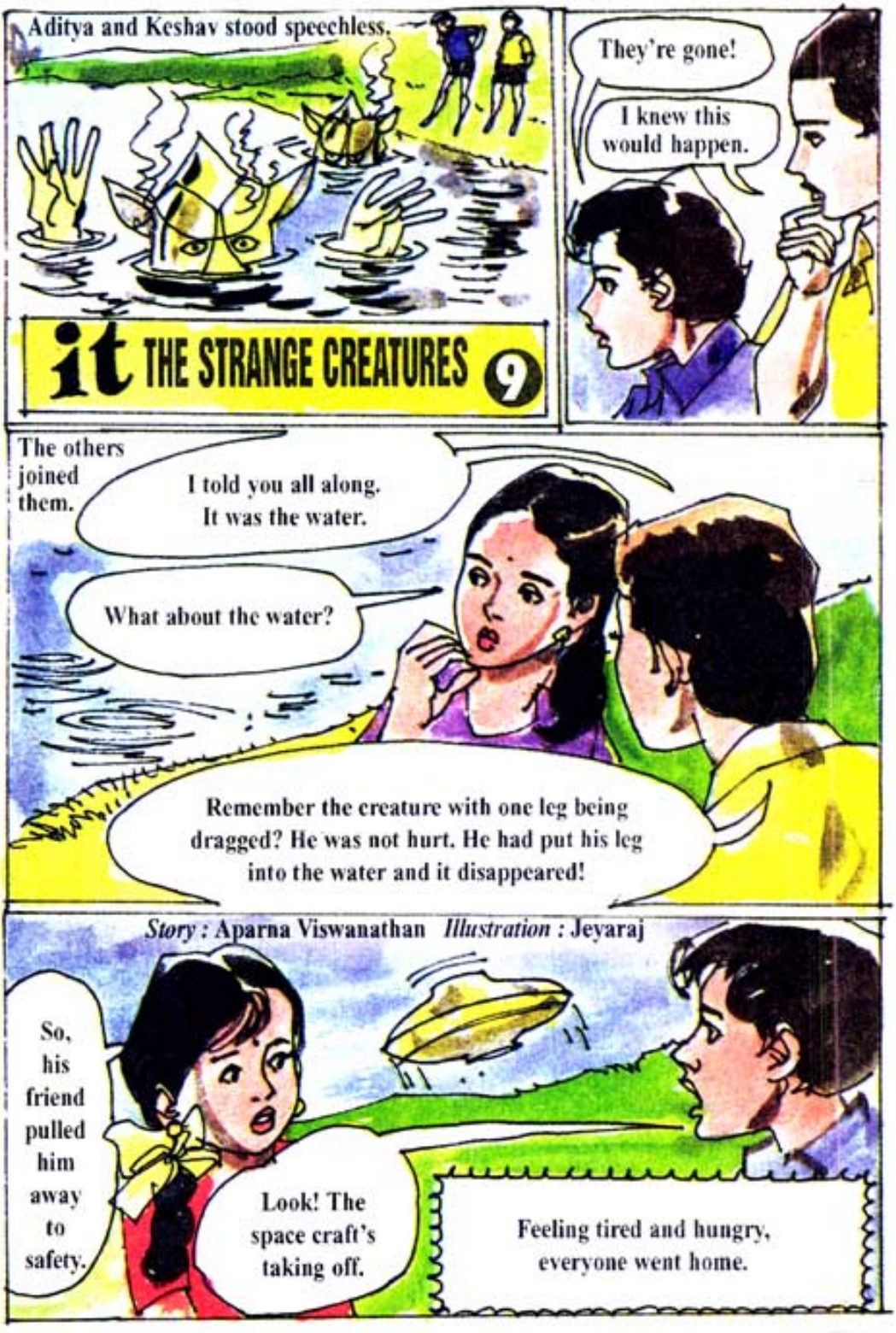
my grades," said Soory.

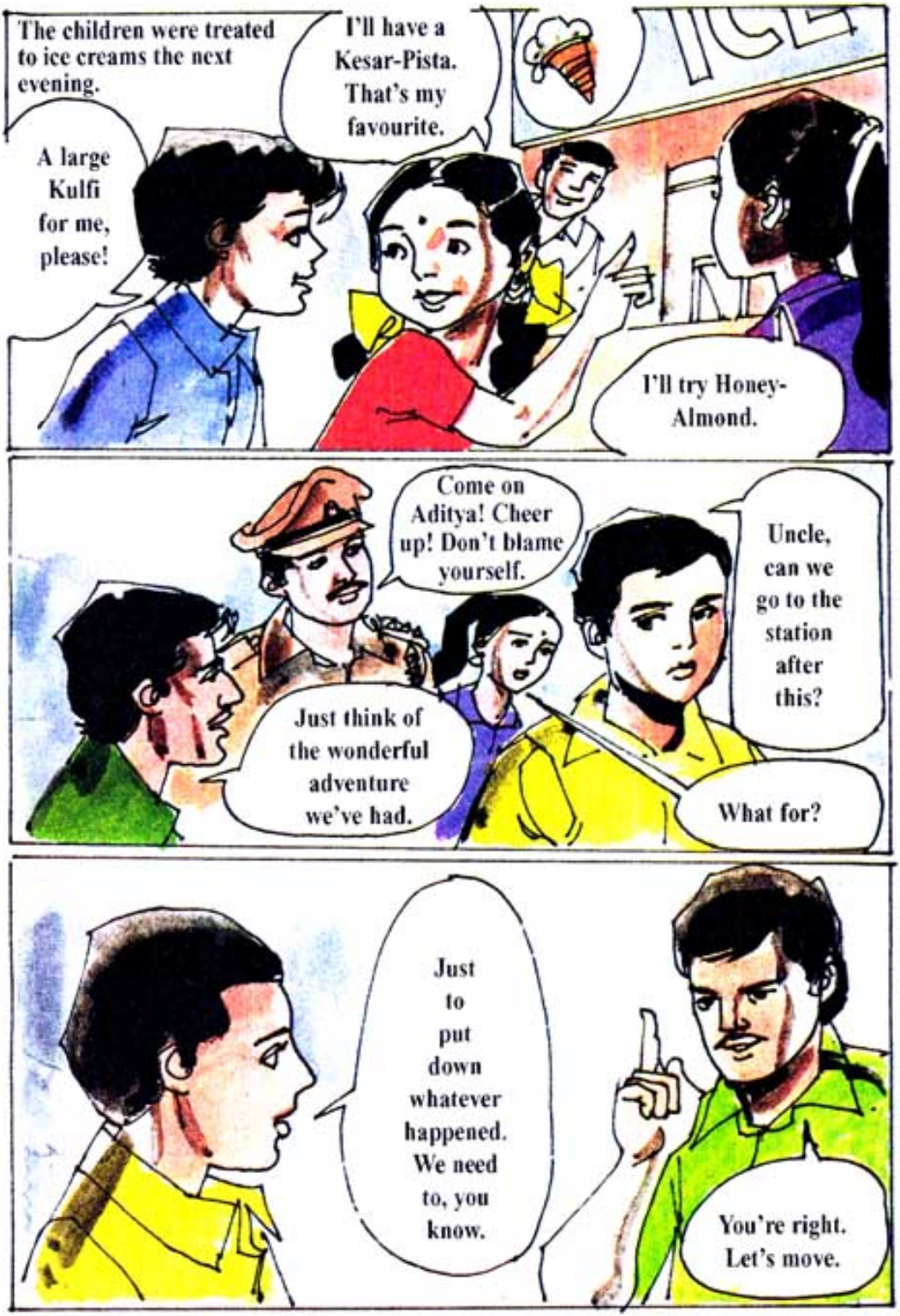
The saint smiled and said, "My child, when you came to meet me earlier, you told me that you hated your classmates. When you entertain a feeling of hatred, your thoughts will be fully obsessed with them, with the effect that the moment you open your books, you'll see their images and not what is in the book. This will be a hindrance and your concentration will be hindered and hampered. When this happens success will always elude you. If you have confidence in yourself to achieve your goal, you need not think of the capabilities of others. What is required is this confidence to tackle any endeavour. You have been a bright student before, and there is no reason why you can't compete with your peers. The fact that you have come to see me again shows your perseverance to achieve your goal. You can, and you will, and I bless you."

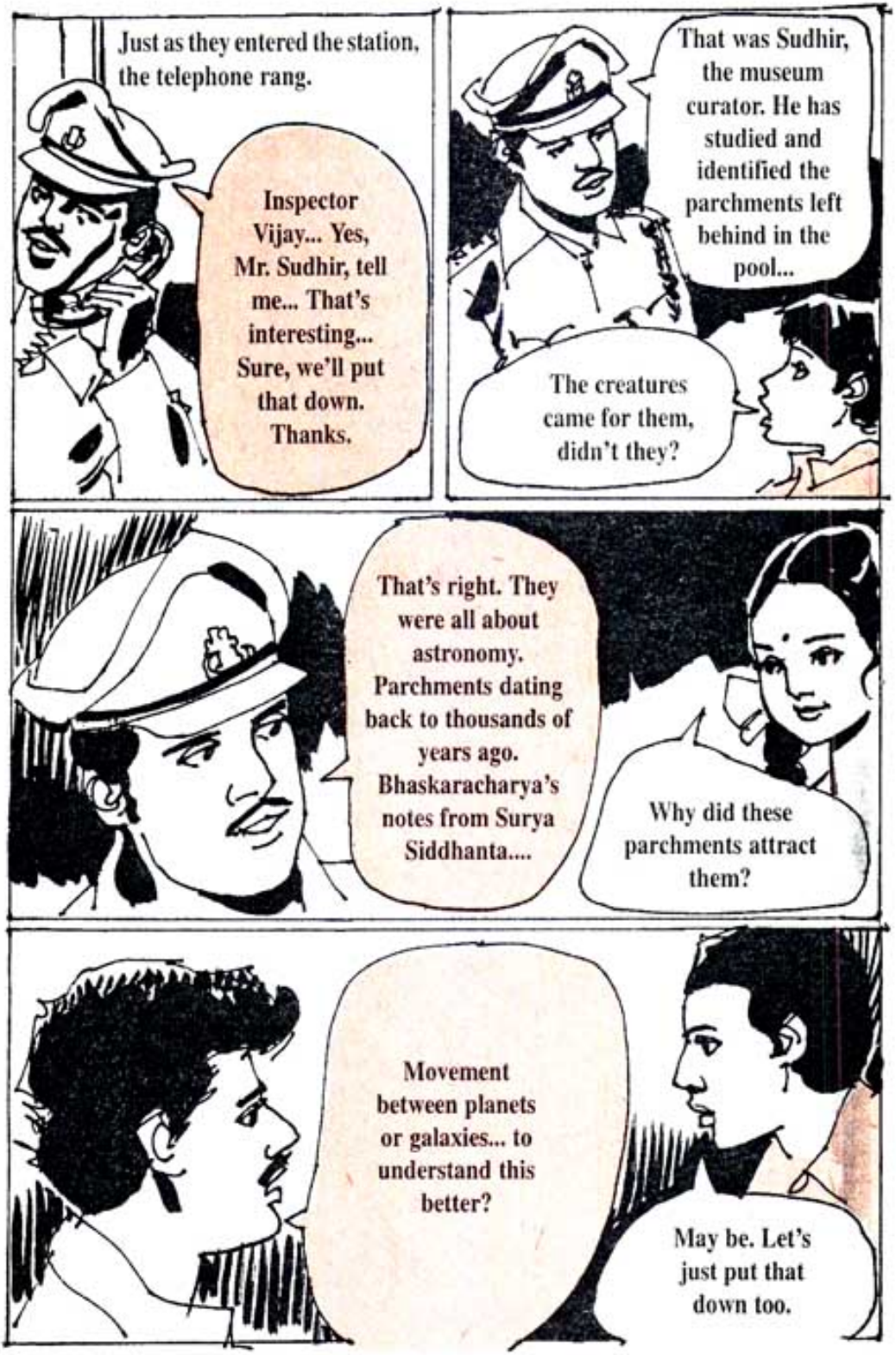
Soory was relieved and happy. Free from obsession and envy, his concentration improved and his grades soared. There was no turning back after that!

- 'Karthika'

N. Sundar Raman, Madurai


Aditya and Keshav stood speechless.
it THE STRANGE CREATURES 9
They're gone!
I knew this would happen.
The others joined them.
I told you all along. It was the water.
What about the water?
Remember the creature with one leg being dragged? He was not hurt. He had put his leg into the water and it disappeared!
Story : Aparna Viswanathan Illustration : Jeyaraj
So, his friend pulled him away to safety.
Look! The space craft's taking off.
Feeling tired and hungry, everyone went home.


The children were treated to ice creams the next evening.
I'll have a Kesar-Pista. That's my favourite.
ICE
A large Kulfi for me, please!
I'll try Honey-Almond.
Come on Aditya! Cheer up! Don't blame yourself.
Uncle, can we go to the station after this?
Just think of the wonderful adventure we've had.
What for?
Just to put down whatever happened. We need to, you know.
You're right. Let's move.


Just as they entered the station, the telephone rang.
Inspector Vijay... Yes, Mr. Sudhir, tell me... That's interesting... Sure, we'll put that down. Thanks.
That was Sudhir, the museum curator. He has studied and identified the parchments left behind in the pool...
The creatures came for them, didn't they?
That's right. They were all about astronomy. Parchments dating back to thousands of years ago. Bhaskaracharya's notes from Surya Siddhanta....
Why did these parchments attract them?
Movement between planets or galaxies... to understand this better?
May be. Let's just put that down too.

Let us quickly update the file.
What shall we call it?
ET-Extra Terrestrials.
No! We'll call them Intra Terrestrials. They are also one among us after all!
Agreed.
The other findings...
They are otherwise invisible...
The creatures are seen only under blue light...
They can see but can't hear and they disappear in water...
How interesting... and yet we don't know enough...
We wish they would...
Will they??
Will they come again? I wonder...
(The End)

* We shed tears...

* President Bush and Secretary of State Collin Powell

WAR CLOUDS OVER IRAQ

"Three cheers for Kalpana Chawla" was the title given to this column in the last issue. Now we shed tears. Little did we expect tragedy to strike at the astronauts during re-entry. A defect in the heat shield resulted in the space ship burning up while entering the earth's atmosphere. It split into two and we could see on the T.V. screen, two balls of fire making their way to the surface of the earth. While the death of all the astronauts on board is a great set back to the scientific world, the loss of Kalpana Chawla is a personal tragedy for us. NASA will learn by it's costly mistake. There will be delays but no let up in the space programme. That is how the indomitable spirit of mankind works!

•••

The U.S. is accusing Iraq of disobeying the United Nation's directive that it should dismantle and diffuse all nuclear and chemical weapons and installations. U.S. Secretary of State Collin Powell says that though the factories have been dismantled, they are kept hidden in huge containers loaded on to trucks and rail wagons, and that the factories can start functioning again in no time at all! The chief weapons inspector of the U.N., Blix, says that he has not been able to obtain any proof that Iraq clearly possessed weapons of mass destruction. Yet U.S. president Bush threatens war against Iraq. Many European countries are against it and hope to bring pressure on president Bush through the United Nations.

•••

"Hindutva has been redefined as Bharatiyata" says our Prime Minister. "Hindutva is not linked to any religion. It encompasses all sections of society irrespective of caste or creed. It is all about humanity and no section is to be ignored." Very sane and mature observations indeed. But are the V.H.P., Bajrang Dal and R.S.S. listening?

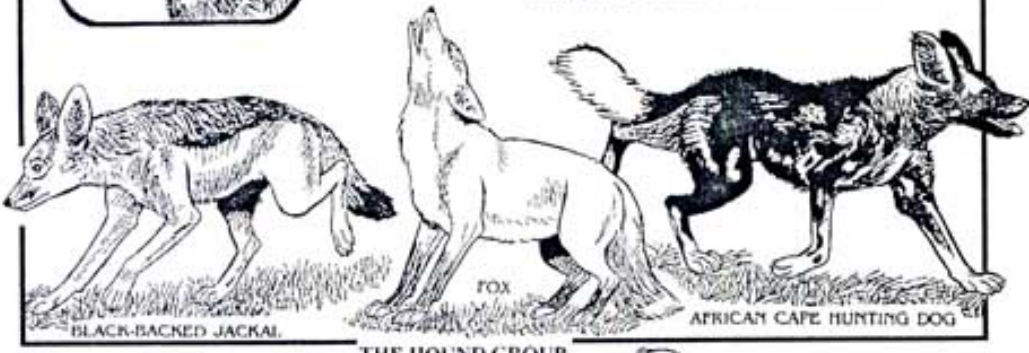
•••

All eyes are on Sattankulam in Tamilnadu, where there is a straight contest between the AIDMK and Congress in a byelection. There is not going to be any change of government if the congress wins, but it would be a blow to the ruling party and an indication of disapproval by the public of its policies and way of governance. Hence the AIDMK is going all out to secure a victory, while the opposition parties accuse it of misusing government machinery and using money power!

DOGS

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS:
PRASAD IYER

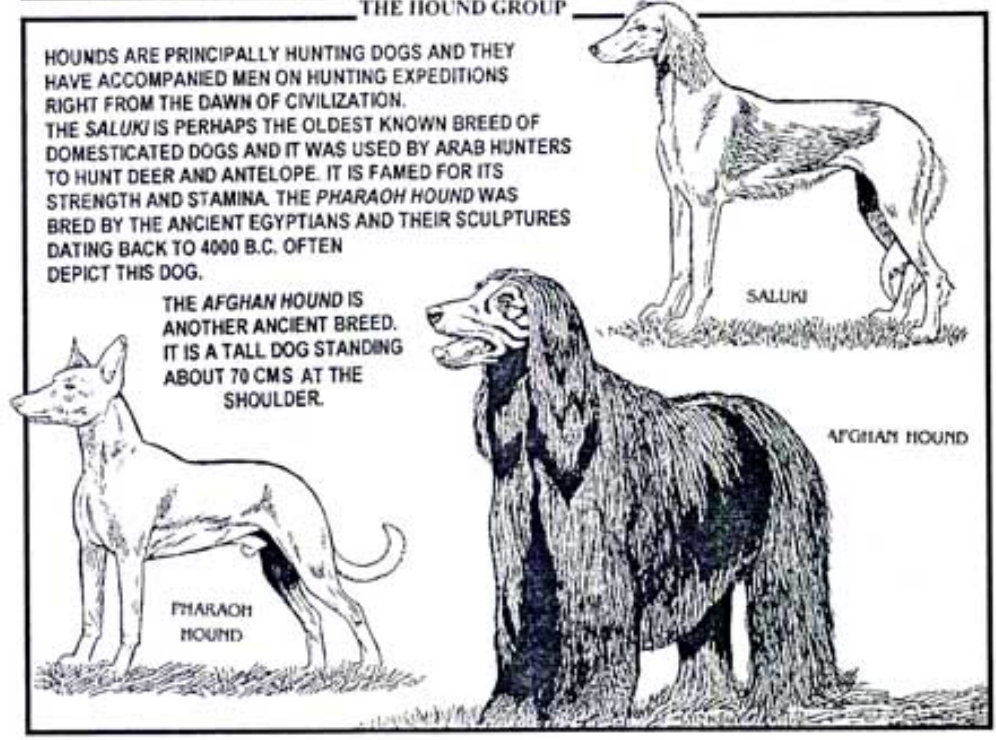
THE DOG IS SUPPOSED TO BE MAN'S BEST FRIEND. IT IS A FRIENDSHIP THAT HAS LASTED FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO THE PRESENT PERIOD. THE DOG FAMILY IS VERY VAST. IT ALSO INCLUDES OTHER DOG-LIKE CREATURES SUCH AS WOLVES AND FOXES. IN FACT, IT IS BELIEVED THAT MODERN-DAY DOGS HAVE DESCENDED FROM WOLF-LIKE ANCESTORS AND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DOMESTICATED DOGS AND THEIR WILDER COUSINS ARE VERY SLIGHT INDEED. THE DOMESTICATED DOG BREEDS ARE DIVIDED INTO SIX GROUPS.



THE HOUND GROUP

HOUNDS ARE PRINCIPALLY HUNTING DOGS AND THEY HAVE ACCOMPANIED MEN ON HUNTING EXPEDITIONS RIGHT FROM THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION.
THE *SALUKI* IS PERHAPS THE OLDEST KNOWN BREED OF DOMESTICATED DOGS AND IT WAS USED BY ARAB HUNTERS TO HUNT DEER AND ANTELOPE. IT IS FAMED FOR ITS STRENGTH AND STAMINA. THE *PHARAOH HOUND* WAS BRED BY THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS AND THEIR SCULPTURES DATING BACK TO 4000 B.C. OFTEN DEPICT THIS DOG.

THE *AFGHAN HOUND* IS ANOTHER ANCIENT BREED. IT IS A TALL DOG STANDING ABOUT 70 CMS AT THE SHOULDER.



THE *BASENJI* HAILS FROM CENTRAL AFRICA AND IS CHARACTERIZED BY ITS WRINKLED FOREHEAD AND TIGHTLY CURLED TAIL. IT IS THE ONLY DOG IN THE WORLD THAT CANNOT BARK.

BORZOI

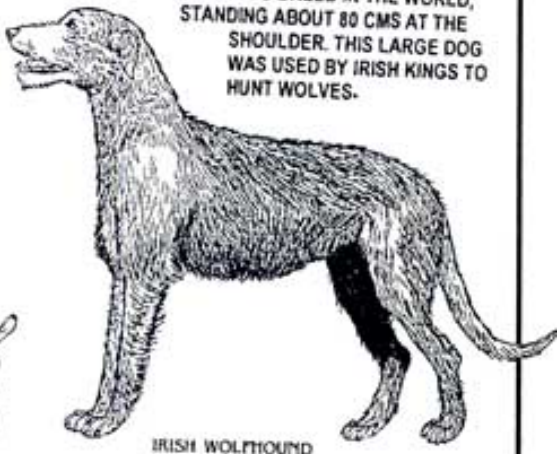
THE *BORZOI* IS AN ELEGANT DOG THAT IS NATIVE TO RUSSIA. IT ACCOMPANIED RUSSIAN NOBLEMEN ON THEIR HUNTING EXPEDITIONS.

BASENJI

THE *GREYHOUND*, ANOTHER ANCIENT BREED, IS A TALL, SLENDER DOG AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE FASTEST OF THE DOG SPECIES. GREYHOUND RACING IS POPULAR IN MANY COUNTRIES.

GREYHOUND

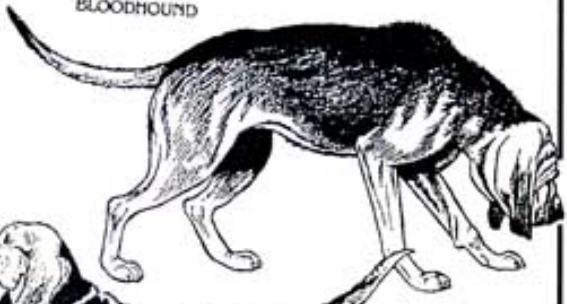
THE *IRISH WOLFHOUND* IS PERHAPS THE TALLEST DOG BREED IN THE WORLD, STANDING ABOUT 80 CMS AT THE SHOULDER. THIS LARGE DOG WAS USED BY IRISH KINGS TO HUNT WOLVES.



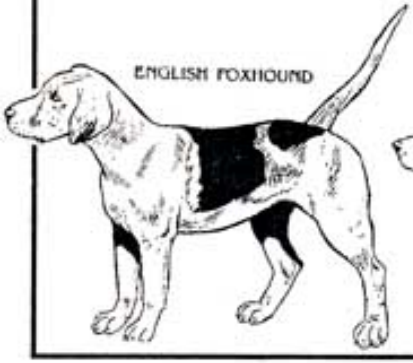
IRISH WOLFHOUND

THE *ENGLISH FOXHOUND* IS USED BY MOUNTED RIDERS IN ENGLAND TO HUNT FOXES AND THE *BLOOD-HOUND* IS FAMED FOR ITS SENSE OF SMELL. IT IS USED BY LAW-MEN TO TRACK DOWN CRIMINALS.

BLOODHOUND



ENGLISH FOXHOUND



BASSET HOUND

THE SHORT-LEGGED *BASSET HOUND* ORIGINATED IN FRANCE AND IS USED TO HUNT SMALL PREY SUCH AS HARES.

THE TERRIER GROUP

TERRIERS ARE ALSO HUNTING DOGS, BUT THEY ARE USED TO HUNTING SMALL ANIMALS THAT LIVE UNDERGROUND, SUCH AS, RABBITS, RATS, BADGERS AND OTHER RODENTS. IN FACT, THE WORD "TERRIER" IS DERIVED FROM THE LATIN WORD "TERRA" WHICH MEANS "GROUND" OR "EARTH".

THE *SCOTTISH TERRIER* WAS ORIGINALLY BRED IN SCOTLAND. IT IS A SMALL DOG WITH SHORT LEGS AND A HAIRY COAT. IT MAKES AN AFFECTIONATE PET.

SCOTTISH TERRIER

FOX TERRIER

THE *FOX TERRIER* WAS BRED TO HUNT BOTH BADGER AND FOX ...

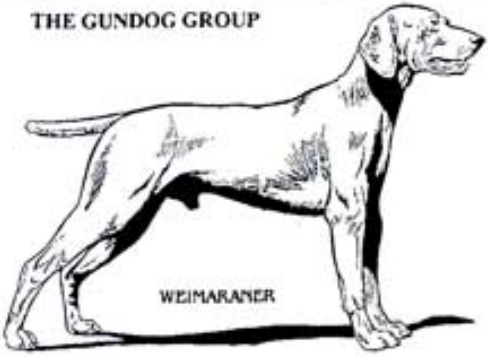
...AND *BULL TERRIERS* ARE SO CALLED BECAUSE THEY WERE USED IN THE SPORT OF BULL BAITING*.

BULL TERRIER

THE *AIREDALE TERRIER* IS KNOWN AS THE "KING OF TERRIERS". IT TAKES ITS NAME FROM THE RIVER AIRE IN ENGLAND AND WAS BRED TO HUNT OTTERS.

AIREDALE TERRIER

THE GUNDOG GROUP



WEIMARANER

GUNDOGS ARE USED BY HUNTERS NOT TO HUNT, BUT TO SEEK OUT PREY AND FETCH IT AFTER IT HAS BEEN SHOT AND KILLED.

THE *WEIMARANER* IS ONE OF THE BEST GUNDOG BREEDS AVAILABLE TO HUNTERS. IT WAS FIRST BRED IN GERMANY AT THE COURT OF THE WEIMAR KINGS. IT IS A FAIRLY LARGE AND INTELLIGENT DOG AND IS EVEN USED BY MANY POLICE FORCES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

COCKER SPANIEL

THE *COCKER SPANIEL* IS ALSO A GOOD GUNDOG AND IS USED TO FLUSH OUT BIRDS HIDING IN BUSHES. IN FACT, IT GETS ITS NAME BECAUSE IT WAS OFTEN USED TO FLUSH OUT WOODCOCKS.

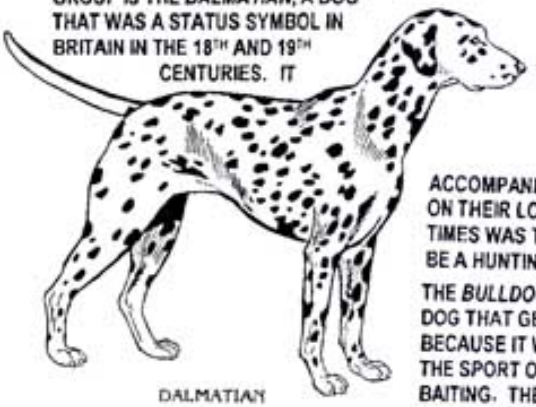
THE *ENGLISH SETTER* IS ANOTHER INTELLIGENT AND RELIABLE GUNDOG. IT ALSO MAKES AN EXCELLENT PET.

ENGLISH SETTER

* BULL-BAITING WAS A CRUEL SPORT POPULAR IN BRITAIN IN WHICH DOGS WOULD GRAB A BULL BY THE NOSE TILL IT COLLAPSED. IT WAS DECLARED ILLEGAL IN 1838.

THE UTILITY GROUP

DOGS IN THIS CATEGORY ARE THOSE THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DEVELOPED FOR ANY SPECIFIC PURPOSE. THEY ARE ONLY INTENDED TO BECOME GOOD PETS, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE BREEDS HAVE WORKING BACKGROUNDS. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BREEDS IN THE UTILITY GROUP IS THE *DALMATIAN*, A DOG THAT WAS A STATUS SYMBOL IN BRITAIN IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES. IT ACCOMPANIED COACH-DRIVERS ON THEIR LONG TRIPS AND SOMETIMES WAS TRAINED TO BE A HUNTING DOG.



DALMATIAN

BULLDOG

THE *BULLDOG* IS ANOTHER DOG THAT GETS ITS NAME BECAUSE IT WAS USED IN THE SPORT OF BULL-BAITING. THEY MAKE GOOD, LOYAL PETS, THOUGH THEY DO NOT LIVE VERY LONG.

POODLE

THE *POODLE* HAS ITS ORIGIN IN GERMANY AND IS A POPULAR SHOW DOG WHICH LOOKS QUITE ATTRACTIVE, ESPECIALLY WHEN ITS BODY HAIR IS CUT IN THE CHARACTERISTIC STYLE.

THE TOY GROUP

AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, THE DOG BREEDS IN THIS GROUP HAVE BEEN BRED ONLY TO BE GOOD COMPANIONS AND SHOW-PIECES.THE TOY GROUP DOGS ARE SMALL AND ARE ALSO REFERRED TO AS "LAP DOGS". ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR DOGS IN THIS GROUP IS THE *POMERANIAN*. THE *LOWCHEN* IS ALSO CALLED "THE LION DOG" BECAUSE OF THE WAY ITS BODY HAIR IS CUT RESEMBLING A LION'S MANE. THE *MALTESE* IS A SMALL DOG HAILING FROM MALTA AND THE *ITALIAN GREYHOUND* IS A MINIATURE GREYHOUND ORIGINALLY BRED IN ITALY. THE *PUG* ORIGINATED IN CHINA AND THE *CHIHUHUA* OF MEXICO, IS REPUTED TO BE THE SMALLEST DOG IN THE WORLD.

POMERANIAN

LÖWCHEN

MALTESE

PUG

ITALIAN GREYHOUND

CHIHUHUA

THIS IS THE LARGEST CATEGORY OF BREEDS AND THE DOGS OF THIS GROUP HAVE ALWAYS ASSISTED HUMAN BEINGS IN THE VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE. THE BEST KNOWN DOG OF THIS GROUP IS THE *GERMAN SHEPHERD* OR *ALSATIAN* – A BREED THAT IS POPULAR AS A GUARD DOG AND ALSO AS A PET.

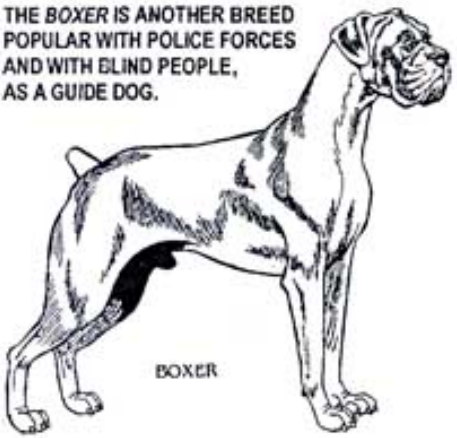
GERMAN SHEPHERD (ALSATIAN)

THE *DOBERMANN* WAS BRED IN GERMANY IN THE 19TH CENTURY BY A TAX-COLLECTOR NAMED LOUIS DOBERMANN WHO WANTED A FIERCE DOG TO PROTECT HIM FROM UNRULY TAX PAYERS.

THE DOBERMANN IS POPULAR AMONG MANY POLICE AND ARMED FORCES AS A GUARD AND AS A TRACKING DOG.

DOBERMANN

THE *BOXER* IS ANOTHER BREED POPULAR WITH POLICE FORCES AND WITH BLIND PEOPLE, AS A GUIDE DOG.



BOXER

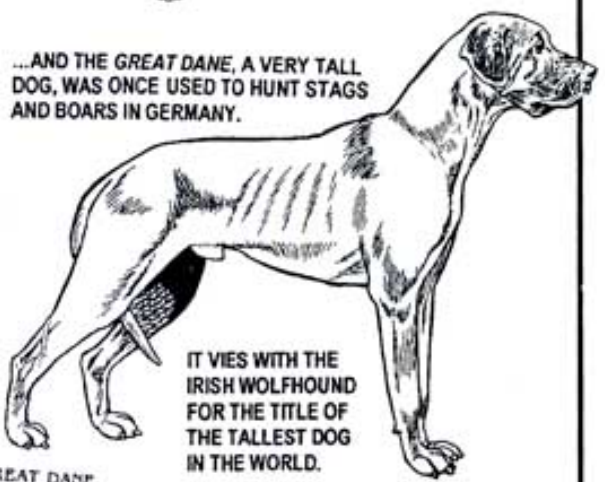
THE *COLLIE* HAILS FROM SCOTLAND WHERE IT SERVES AS A SHEEP DOG, HERDING AND CONTROLLING LARGE HERDS OF SHEEP.

COLLIE

THE *HUSKY* PULLS SLEDS LOADED WITH GOODS IN ARCTIC LANDS ...

HUSKY

...AND THE *GREAT DANE*, A VERY TALL DOG, WAS ONCE USED TO HUNT STAGS AND BOARS IN GERMANY.



GREAT DANE

IT VIES WITH THE IRISH WOLFHOUND FOR THE TITLE OF THE TALLEST DOG IN THE WORLD.

COMPU Vs MEENAL

Meenal was trying to convince her father into buying her a typewriter. Meenal's hobby of writing short stories was taking a serious turn.

"Your handwriting is not that bad. There was a time when great writers..." Father was trying to convince her in his usual sophisticated way of handling difficult situations. Meenal groaned.

Nevertheless, a week later, she was in for a neat surprise when she saw something sleek adoring her room. It was more than she expected.

"Just see, dad. You will be happy that you gifted 'Compu' to me," she said confidently. For, dad had gifted her a computer.

In the beginning, with the knowledge that she had procured, Meenal created a word document. She had never learnt typing before. The whole affair was a real sorry one - her genuine enthusiasm to figure out the position of the alphabets on the keyboard, overpowering her ideas, thoughts and the words that linked them.

So it was 'think'... 'search the keyboard'... 'think again'... After the initial mess, she did manage, to type without hassles. Ha! Meenal sighed with relief. 'Victory of man over machine'. Nonetheless, 'Compu' had a point to prove!

Just when she was reaching the crucial climax at the end of the excitable plot, 'Compu' decided to end things up on a different note. She simply refused to respond. No coaxing or cajoling helped.

"You will lose all unsaved information" came the only reply.

Meenal gasped. She had forgotten to save the last, the most crucial paragraph of the story. So that was the end of the suspense thriller. She could never write, err...type it again.

'Forgive and forget is the human spirit. Meenal decided to forgive 'Compu' on 'humanitarian' grounds.

Therefore, Meenal carried on. She had written a few stories and decided to write a few more before she actually

started sending them out to various magazines. But before any of her editors could even have a peek at her 'classics', she caught Chintu, her eight year old neighbour, engrossed in reading or rather 'raiding' one of her stories with a nasty grin on his face. So much for allowing him to play some computer games!

Meenal shooed him away. Now she had to protect her property against such illegal attacks. That was when the concept of passwords appealed. Meenal scribbled on a paper and smiled triumphantly.

Little did she know that fate willed it the other way!

A day later when she decided to open the folder using her 'unique alpha-numeric' combination, it refused to open.

"The password is incorrect. Word cannot open the document___"

"Noooooooo". Meenal tried in vain to search for the bit of paper on which she had jotted down the password.

The document was as good as lost and with it was lost a saga of an 'impressive' collection of stories.

Meenal became nostalgic calling to mind those moments when she, in a huff, tore sheets of papers and threw them into the waste-basket. The moments when she scratched words out and included situations. Wasn't that wonderful? The time when she let her mind wander freely, without any encumbrance, not necessarily in the house but in the garden or by the side of the little lake.

Why was she depriving herself of such pleasures? It didn't take her long to switch over to her original state of affairs. Nevertheless, it was an absolute 'Victory of man over machine'.

All said and done, Meenal occasionally transfers some of the writings from her papers to the machine ('Compu') just for a printed version of the same.

After all, "The editors want things clean and neat. They would not want to waste their time making out if it's a 'L' or an 'I' that the writer wrote!"

- Pruthvi Vasudev, Hubli.

THE SAD STATE...

It was around six o clock one Sunday morning. I was lost in thought while sipping my cup of coffee, on the balcony. I noticed a boy about five or six years old with a big sack slung on his back, picking pieces of paper and plastic bags from the roadside and from dustbins. While at his work, he stopped short as he chanced to see an, 'Aavin' milk sachet. He looked at it keenly and found a little bit of milk in it. He was about to pour it into his mouth, when his younger brother, hardly a year old, toddled over to him eagerly. The next instance the boy poured the milk into the sibling's mouth. The sight of this moved me to tears and all I could do at that time was to call the boy over and give him the loaf of bread I was having for breakfast. This really set me thinking about the thousands of boys and girls who go hungry.

- Meenakshi Viswanathan, CHENNAI

... A POSITIVE EXPERIMENT

Ragpickers scouring streets, dust bins, and garbage depots is a common sight in all towns. Women and children who are engaged in such jobs spend the day sorting out garbage for paper, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles, footwear soles and used plastic bags. The wares thus collected by them are sold to middle men who exploit these poor people and do not pay a fair price for these goods.

Recently a few social workers in Pune took pains to form an organisation for these ragpickers. The Pimpri - Chinchwad municipal corporation was good enough to allot a shop to this organisation for opening a collection centre where each member could sell his or her goods. The ragpickers are able to get remunerative prices and receipts for the goods sold.

A great relief for the poor and uncared for ragpickers and a successful venture worth emulating.

- Aparna Ramakrishnan, Std IX , Kamalnayan Bajaj School, Pune.

RUKMINI DEVI

a symbol of beauty

Anandhi Ramachandran writes...

"My father and I were sitting under a canopy of large, tall trees. A circular space had been cleared. There was a dais under a very big tree, near the trunk. People from many nationalities were seated, waiting for the curtains to part. The story of Bheeshma was going to be staged...

I was only seven years old then. I didn't really understand much of the dialogue; but I did realise that it was a different kind of drama... a dance drama.

* under that 'one' tree

From behind the misty white screen appeared a shadow. "Who is it?" I whispered into my father's ears. "Ganga Devi" my father replied.

From that very instant, I came to associate Ganga Devi with Rukmini Devi. Rukmini Devi became the symbol of beauty, purity and feminine strength for me.

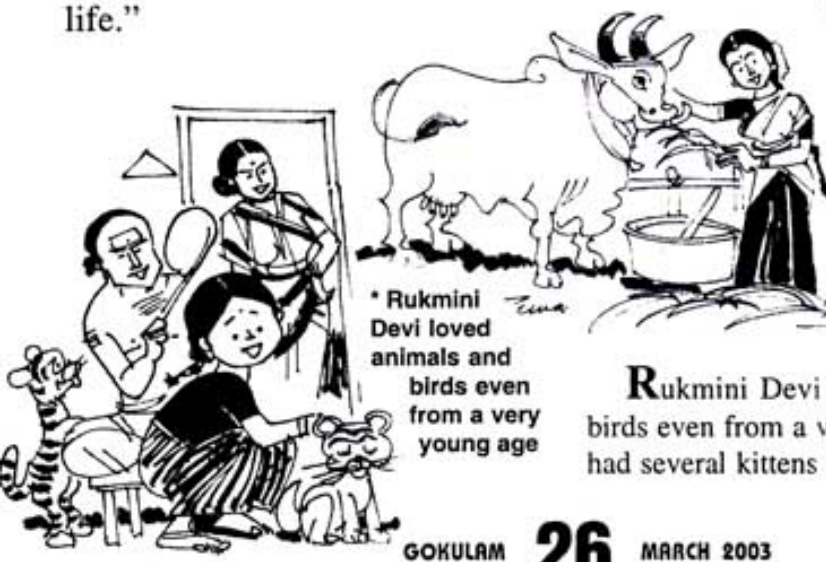
I learnt Bharata Natyam at Kalakshetra, a premier institution located at Chennai, founded by Rukmini Devi to revive and promote Indian culture and arts and crafts. Rukmini Devi was my guru in more than one way. She influenced every aspect of my cultural life."

It is probably not just Anandhi Ramachandran who should feel this way. Surely thousands of Rukmini Devi's students spread across the globe would also feel the same.

Today, the nation celebrates Rukmini Devi's centenary year. Several events are being planned to commemorate the hunredth year of this most talented personality.

Let us go back to read what more Anandhi has to say about this remarkable woman.

Rukmini Devi was born in Madurai on February 29, in the year 1904. One of seven children, Rukmini was a very quiet and reserved child. She grew up in an atmosphere that was steeped in good values and rich culture. Her experiences as a child influenced every step that she subsequently took to realise her vision.



* Rukmini Devi loved animals and birds even from a very young age

Rukmini Devi loved animals and birds even from a very young age. She had several kittens and puppies as pets

when she was a child. She even had an old cow in her house. Once, when Rukmini was away from home, the cow was sold. Rukmini was very upset when she came to know about it. She insisted that the cow be redeemed. Finally, the cow was found but before arrangements could be made for its release, the cow escaped and ran away. Everyone was surprised when the cow returned home all by herself, running back nearly 15 miles. "I knew she would come back to me" said Rukmini her eyes filled with tears of joy.

Much later even at her residence in the Theosophical Society in Chennai, there would always be an animal or bird being treated for injury - tiny squirrels, parrots, kittens, puppies... At breakfast time, she always had visitors. One cheeky squirrel would sit on her lap and take nuts from her hands. It seemed that the birds and animals understood her love and reciprocated.

This compassionate nature in her made her take up animal welfare work. When she was appointed as member of the Rajya Sabha, she made history by speaking from the point of view of animals that could not speak for themselves. She piloted a bill for the 'prevention of cruelty to animals' in the Parliament and later became the first chairman of the Animal Welfare Board.

In many ways Rukmini Devi was influenced by her childhood days. As a child, she apalled by the manner in which children were being beaten. School life did not leave behind pleasant memories for her. In fact, at one point of her

* Deep involvement in all forms of art

schooling, she told Dr. Annie Besant that she didn't want to go to school. (Dr. Annie Besant was an Englishwoman who founded the Theosophical Society. She was a great source of inspiration for Rukminin Devi) Surprisingly when Dr. Besant died, it was Rukmini Devi who immediately started a school in Dr. Besant's memory. She, along with her husband Dr. Arundale, invited Madam Maria Montessori to India to establish a new kind of education for very young chil-

* In class

dren. This later paved way for the spread of the Montessori system of education all over India.

Rukmini Devi hadn't seen Bharata Natyam until she was twenty three years old! It is astonishing to learn that she was inspired to dance by the great Russian ballet dancer, Anna Pavlova. It was Pavlova who told Rukmini that she should learn traditional dancing in India, her own country. After that, Rukmini Devi had her formal lessons under a great teacher, Pandanallur Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai. Her deep involvement in the art, urged her to start an institution for reviving and promoting not only Bharata Natyam but also several other dying forms of art and craft. The Kalakshetra college of fine arts in Chennai was born out of this urge, in the year 1936, with just one teacher, one student and one tree!

* Continuing to nurture the glorious tradition set by the guru

Rukmini Devi was not a Tamil scholar. But, she was the director of the most important Tamil manuscript library which has published many rare Tamil works. She served the library and its cause throughout her life.

Rukmini Devi was a perfectionist. She did expect discipline from her students but at the same time gave them a lot of freedom within that discipline. She was specially fond of young children. She always spoke to them in a friendly manner and made them feel comfortable. She commanded high respect from the children of the school and the artists of the art foundation. Every child and every artiste always did their best in turn.

Today, Kalakshetra and the two schools founded by Rukmini Devi have grown both in size and stature. These institutions continue to nurture the glorious tradition set by her.

Rukmini Devi lived up to her principles throughout her life, until her death. Art without vulgarity, beauty without cruelty and education without fear were what she always strived for.

Let us pay homage to this remarkable woman. Let us follow the path she laid down.

I wish I were Thumbelina

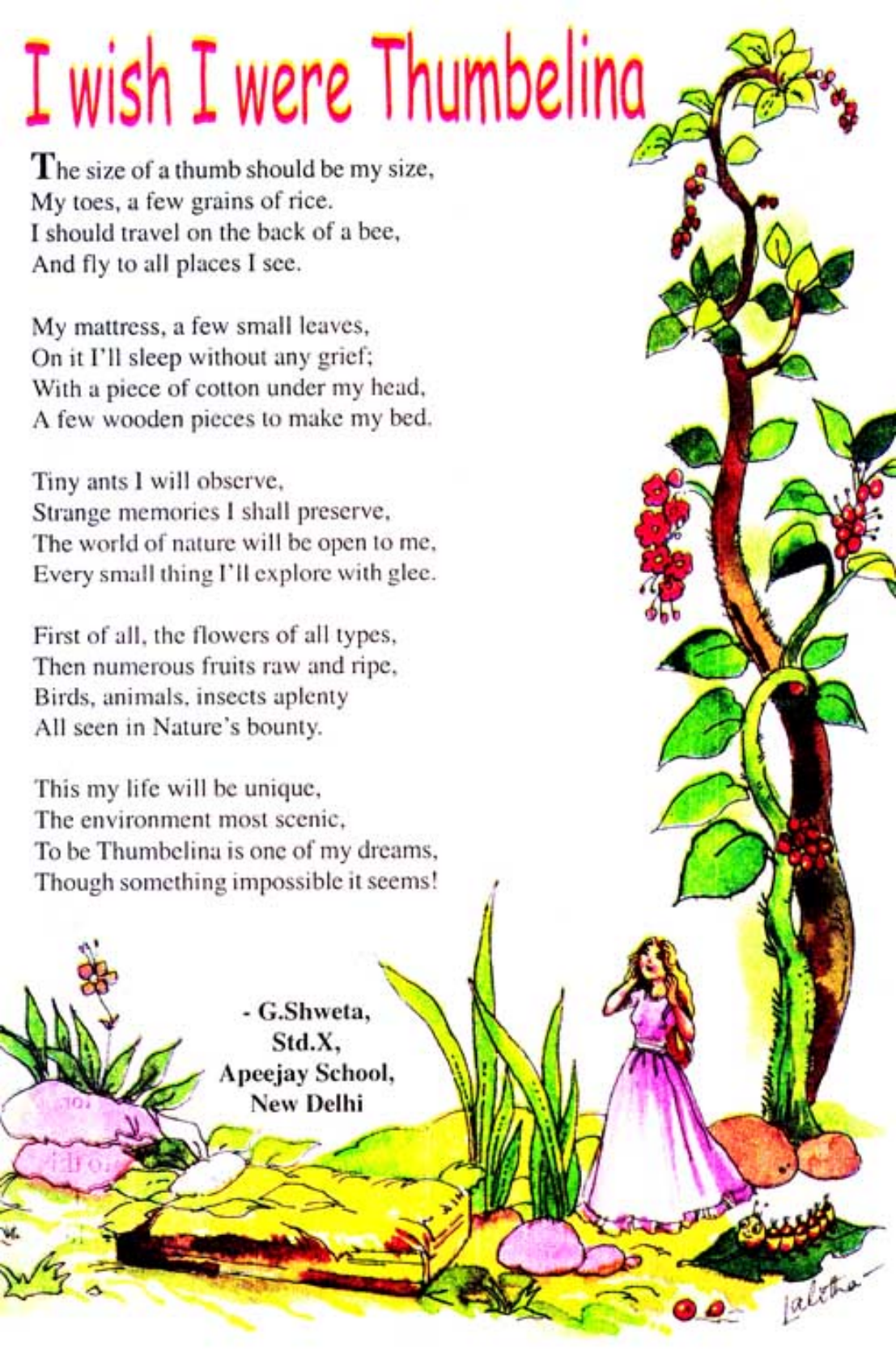
The size of a thumb should be my size,
My toes, a few grains of rice.
I should travel on the back of a bee,
And fly to all places I see.

My mattress, a few small leaves,
On it I'll sleep without any grief;
With a piece of cotton under my head,
A few wooden pieces to make my bed.

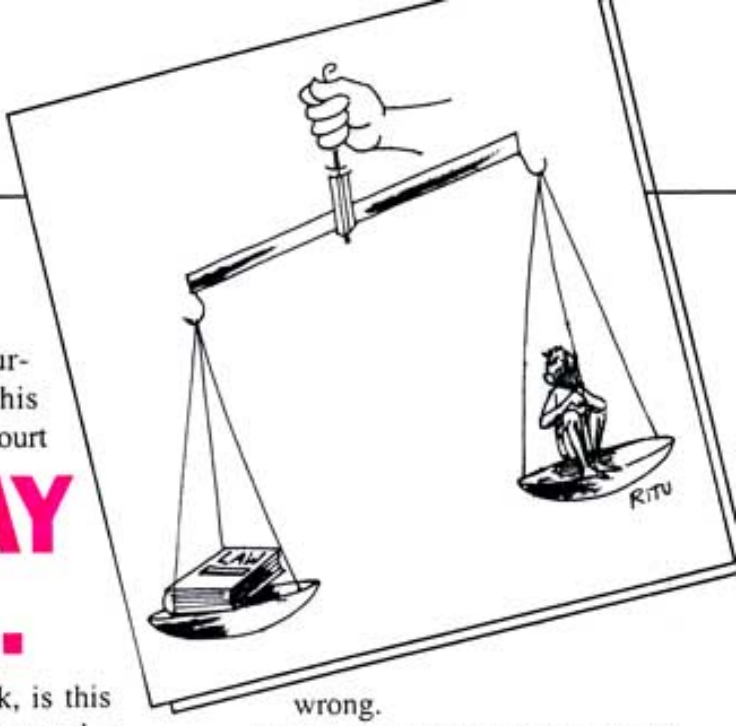
Tiny ants I will observe,
Strange memories I shall preserve,
The world of nature will be open to me,
Every small thing I'll explore with glee.

First of all, the flowers of all types,
Then numerous fruits raw and ripe,
Birds, animals, insects aplenty
All seen in Nature's bounty.

This my life will be unique,
The environment most scenic,
To be Thumbelina is one of my dreams,
Though something impossible it seems!



- G.Shweta,
Std.X,
Apeejay School,
New Delhi



THE PRACTICE OF HANGING CRIMINALS

Many a time, a murderer is hanged when his crime is proved in the court

IF I MAY ASK...

of law. But if I may ask, is this practise justifiable? I know that many may not agree with me but I staunchly believe that this practise is wrong.

As students, we learn in Moral Science that no human has the right to take another life. God gives life to an individual. God alone has the right to take away the life of that individual. Who are we human beings, to kill other humans in the name of justice? Even if you don't view it as a spiritual matter, practically too, its not right. By killing the murderer, is the victim going to get back his life? What satisfaction can the near ones of the victim get? Their satisfaction is obtained when the right person is proved to be the murderer. There ends the matter.

In fact, punishing people itself is an arguable act because there again, man is not the one to punish anyone for their wrong deeds. God is there to do that. But to some extent, punishment is necessary, because otherwise the society will collapse, people will go haywire and crime rate will increase tremendously. But I am absolutely against the

The following particulars regarding the ownership of 'GOKULAM' the English Monthly newspaper, are published, as called for by rule 8 of the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules 1956.

FORM IV

1. Place of Publication	:	Chennai
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Nationality	:	Indian
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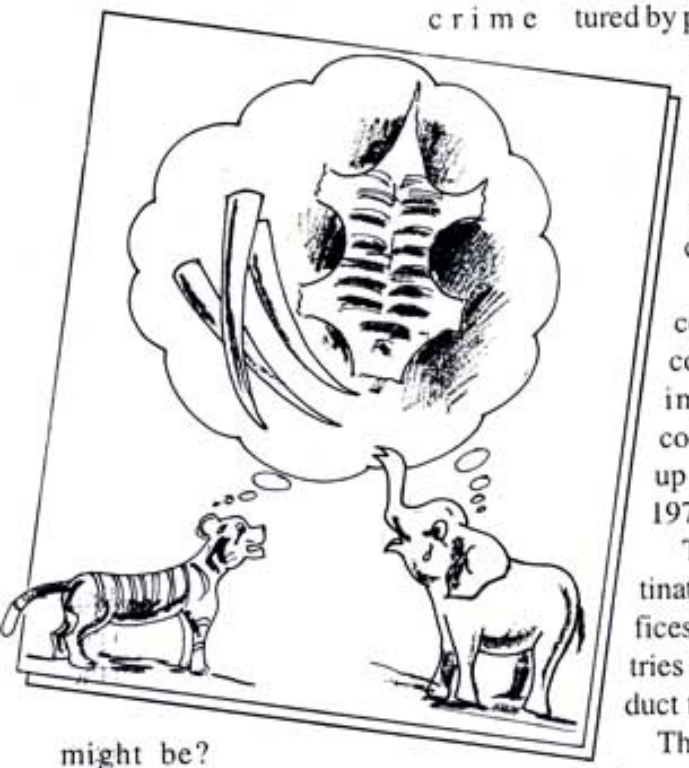
I hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1.3.2003

K. Rajendran
Publisher

practise of hanging criminals. The murderer murders an individual and the court hangs the murderer. Both are killings, aren't they? What's the difference? What kind of justice is hanging someone, however bad his crime might be?



What's the point in following this gruesome and unjust practise?

- Ankita Shreeram, Std VIII, Holy Angels HS, Mumbai.

RUTHLESS AND GORY

That the bigger fish eat the smaller fish is a natural phenomenon. So is the tiger killing a deer for its meal - the game is over within minutes. There is no torture.

Animals kill other animals to consume. When it comes to humans playing the game of hunting, it seems that very often, animals sacrifice themselves for man's cruelty.

In many countries animals are captured by people and are tortured for the rest of their lives. They are made to learn skills and are often exploited by man to fulfil his greed. They are forced to perform so that man can earn money.

Experiments on animals are conducted in many developed countries for which animals are imported from developing countries like India. India woke up to ban this export as late as in 1978.

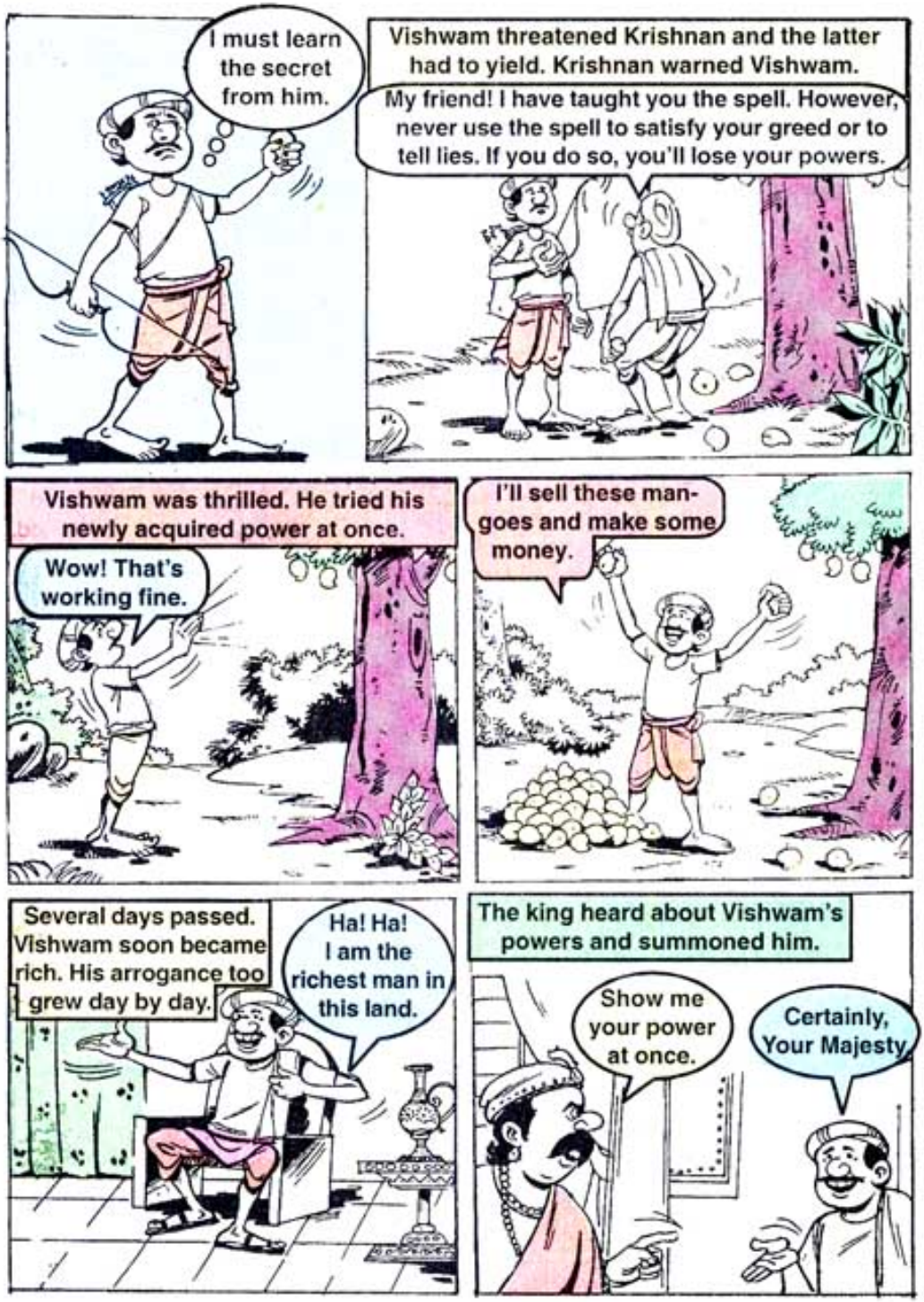
The cruelty did not stop. Multinationals began to move their offices into these developing countries and set up laboratories to conduct their studies.

The animals continue to suffer. According to many zoologists, the animals are drugged, overfed, starved, isolated, skinned alive, boiled... even tested for effects of radiation - all in the name of improving human life!

Let us remember that humans do not own the entire world. Animals too have the right to live!

- R. Niharika, Std IX, Ryan International School, Faridabad.

CASTING SPELLS


I must learn the secret from him.
Vishwam threatened Krishnan and the latter had to yield. Krishnan warned Vishwam.
My friend! I have taught you the spell. However, never use the spell to satisfy your greed or to tell lies. If you do so, you'll lose your powers.
Vishwam was thrilled. He tried his newly acquired power at once.
Wow! That's working fine.
I'll sell these mangoes and make some money.
Several days passed. Vishwam soon became rich. His arrogance too grew day by day.
Ha! Ha! I am the richest man in this land.
The king heard about Vishwam's powers and summoned him.
Show me your power at once.
Certainly, Your Majesty

I can now become famous too. The king is sure to reward me well.
Vishwam cast the spell and -
Here you are, sir! The mangoes are all yours.
Wonderful! Marvellous! You are truly great.
Tell me how you learnt to do this. Did someone show you or did you possess it yourself?
Vishwam's ego and pride did not permit him to speak the truth.
It was my hard work, Your Majesty! It is the result of a number of experiments I tried on my own.
At that very moment, the tree disappeared. So did Vishwam's power.
Oh, No! What a fool I have been. I've learnt my lesson and I deserve it.

CRISS-CROSS CORNER

CROSSWORD CONTEST
ENTRY - 1

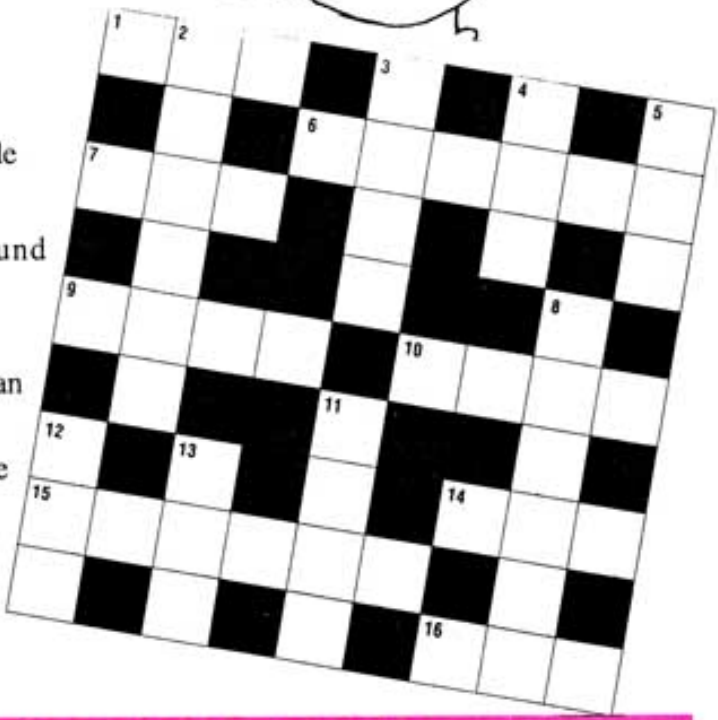
CLUES

Across :

1. A break or an opening
6. To interfere or meddle with something
7. A container for collecting or storing
9. To cut
10. Average
14. Flowing backward or away
15. To touch gently and affectionately
16. To gamble

Down :

2. Dismount
3. Violent anger
4. To choose or decide
5. An ability or skill
8. To wander around aimlessly
11. A young girl
12. A person who is an expert at something
13. A certain time period of importance



- G. Varun, Std. IX,
Jaigopal Garodia
Vivekananda
Vidyalaya, Chennai

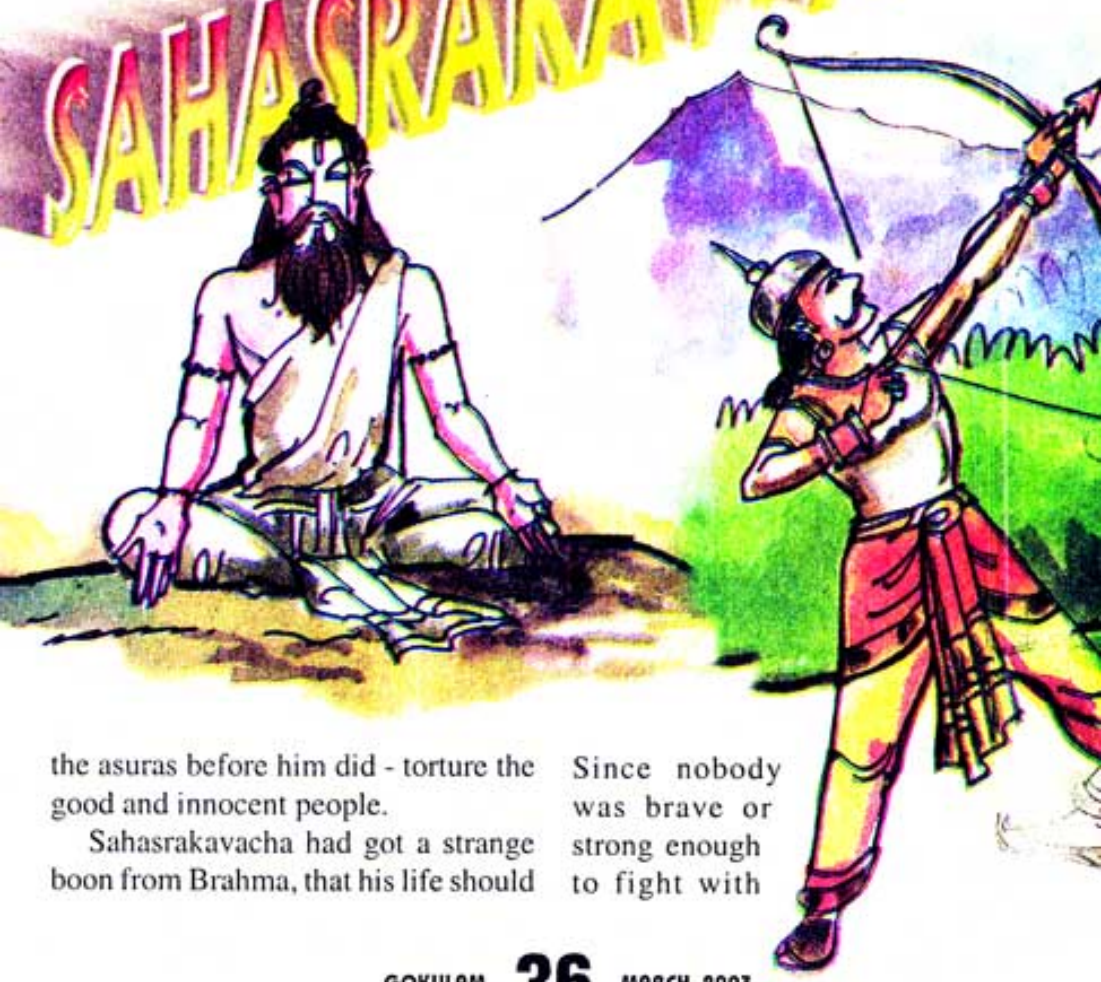
FOR THE ANSWERS TURN TO PAGE 48

SAHASRAKAVACHA

Sahasrakavacha got his name from the thousand kavachas or armours he wore on his body one after the other, like the one Karna wore. Infact, there is a link between Sahasrakavacha and Karna. I shall tell you how.

Once upon a time, there lived a terrible asura called Sahasrakavacha. This asura was highly unimaginative. He did what all the asuras before him did - torture the good and innocent people.

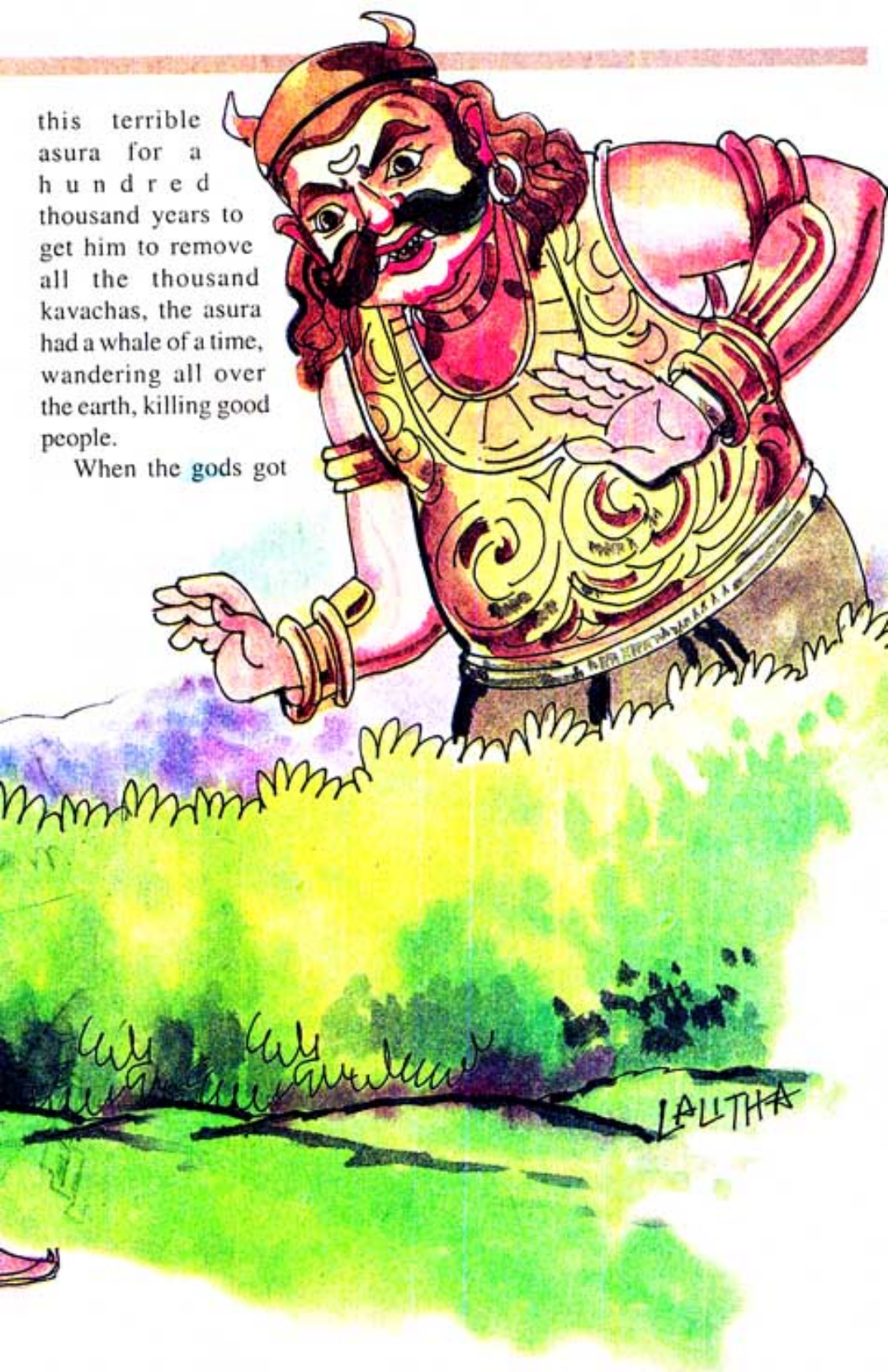
Sahasrakavacha had got a strange boon from Brahma, that his life should lie in the thousand kavachas that he wore and if any enemy should remove the kavachas from him, the asura would become defenseless and likely to get killed. There was also another boon that any enemy who wanted to get one kavacha from him will have to fight with him for a hundred long years.

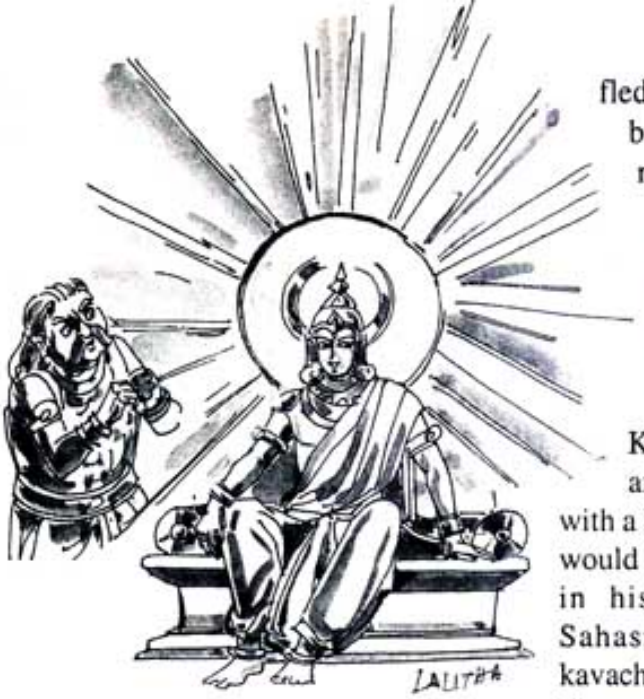


Since nobody was brave or strong enough to fight with

this terrible asura for a hundred thousand years to get him to remove all the thousand kavachas, the asura had a whale of a time, wandering all over the earth, killing good people.

When the gods got





too tired of this artrocious asura, they appealed to Vishnu who agreed to help them. He came down to earth as two men called Nara and Narayana. The two inyited Sahasrakavacha to a battle and the asura agreed with glee. He was sure that he could kill the two puny men.

A long heady duel began. When Nara fought with the asura for one hundred years, Narayana engaged himself in a penance. After one hundred years Nara manged to force a kavacha off the reluctant asura's back and went off for a penance while Narayana fought with the asura for the next hundred years. Thus the duel went on and on until the asura was left with just one kavacha on him. Another battle and he would lose the last kavacha and be doomed to die.

Afraid for his life, Sahasrakavacha fled to Surya, the Sun god and hid behind him. Nara and Narayana retured to the heavens.

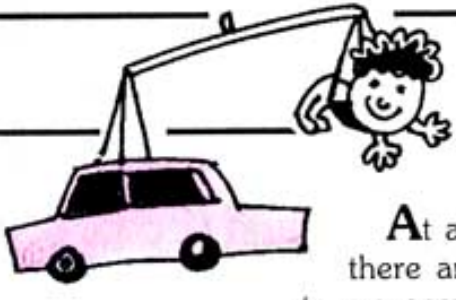
A long time passed. A son was born to Kunti with the blessings of the Sun God and he was named Karna. Much to everybody's amazement the baby was born with a kavacha around him. (Now you would have guessed who Karna was in his previous birth. He was Sahasrakavacha reborn with the kavacha he managed to escape with. He was born with the same boon that nobody could kill him as long as he wore the kavacha!)

When Karna supported Duryodana in the battle of Mahabharata, Indra disguised himself as a poor Brahmin and asked him to give him money as charity. Karna who was born with a heart of gold, and would never refuse to give charity, had nothing on him at that moment except the gold kavacha that he wore around him. So he removed it and gave it to the Brahmin. The time had come for him to die! With the last kavacha off his shoulders, Karna (Sahasrakavacha) went to the battle field and was killed by an arrow shot at him by Arjuna, who stood on his chariot driven by Krishna. They were Nara and Narayana reborn as Krishna and Arjuna to kill him. Thus did Vishnu keep his promise to the gods.

- Gayathri Krishnan, Erode

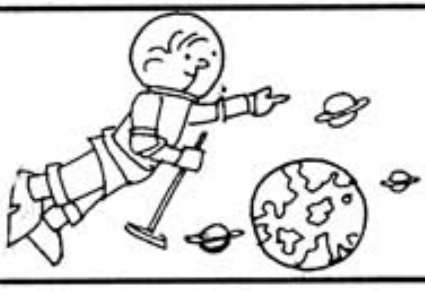
WOW!

The milky way spins through the space at a staggering 2.1 million kms/hr!



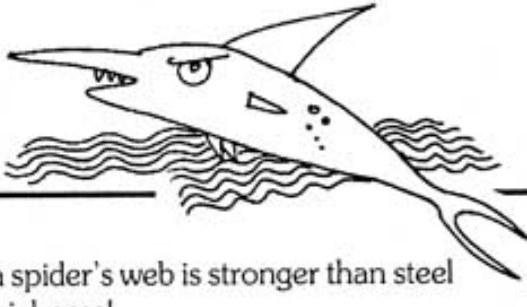
Los Angeles has more cars than people!

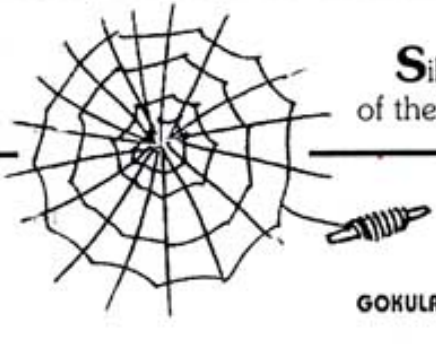
At any given moment there are 2000 thunderstorms occuring around the globe, producing an average of 100 lightning flashes per second!



Besides being the first human in space, Yuri Gagarin claimed another first. He was the first person to actually see the earth's round shape, something impossible for a person to do except from space!

Eugenie Clark, a marine scientist discovered a milky fluid secreted by a fish called the Moses Sole which kept sharks away. This fluid could be used as a shark repellent cream in future!





Silk from a spider's web is stronger than steel of the same thickness!

- Abhishek Gopal, Std.VIII,
St. John's Vestry, Trichy

BIG FIG

MATTHEW HAYDEN

WORLD CUP 2003

Date of Birt
Batting styl
Bowling sty
Test Debut

ODI Debut

MATTHEW HAYDEN	SHAUN POLLOCK
29.10.1971	16.07.1973
Left hand Batsman	Right hand Batsman
Right arm medium pace	Right arm fast / medium pace
First test vs SA at Johannesburg (1993-94)	First test vs England at Centurion (1995-96)
vs England at Manchester (1993)	vs England at Cape Town (1995 - 96)

HOPE

Things are not always
As difficult as can be;
A ray of hope can always
Help you to see.

See, how He sets things
straight,
How one day it will
happen;
See your dreams
through reality
How life will then
enlighten!

Don't lose that
precious HOPE,
That precious gift
of God;
And see in it for yourself
A happy life, given by the Lord!

- Gauri Rao,
age 13,
Sacred Heart Convent School,
Hubli.

POET POURRI

THE CITY

Near the factory lies a city,
Ever bustling with activity.

Men and women walking on roads,
Children jumping like toads.

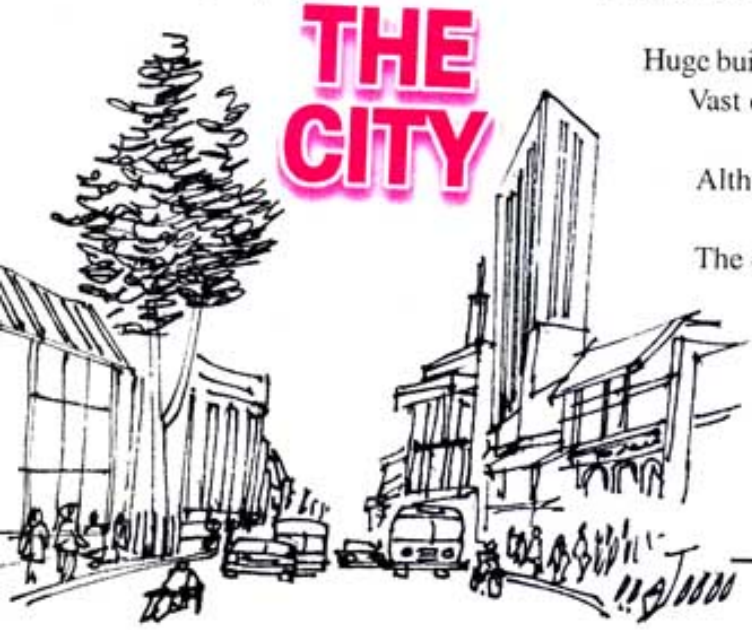
People always seem so busy,
With faces that look ever uneasy.

Vans and trucks filled with loads,
Always seem to flood these roads.

Huge buildings seen everywhere,
Vast open spaces quite rare.

Although you may never
have a quiet day,
The city is good in its
own way!

- Vasantha K.S,
Std VIII,
Gokuldham
High School,
Mumbai 400 063



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SANDHYA SRIDHAR

Chapter V

A Lot of Explaining to do...

"Amma!" exclaimed Eashwar, "Nobody did anything to Krishnan. He just does everything to others."

Amma frowned. "Krishnan's mother was very, very upset," she said, still angry, "You don't know the things she said to me! He seems to be really sick or something."

Eashwar's heart sank. He looked at the maali, who was biting his lips, looking worried.

"Amma," said the maali, "Krishnan was trying to bully our boy..."

Amma turned to him instantly, "Did you do anything to him. Maali, I didn't think..."

"No amma," said the maali, looking down, "I didn't do anything... didn't beat him or frighten him. But..."

"But what...?" Amma demanded instantly alert now.

"But... he may have seen something that he need not have."

THE MAN WITH NO NAME

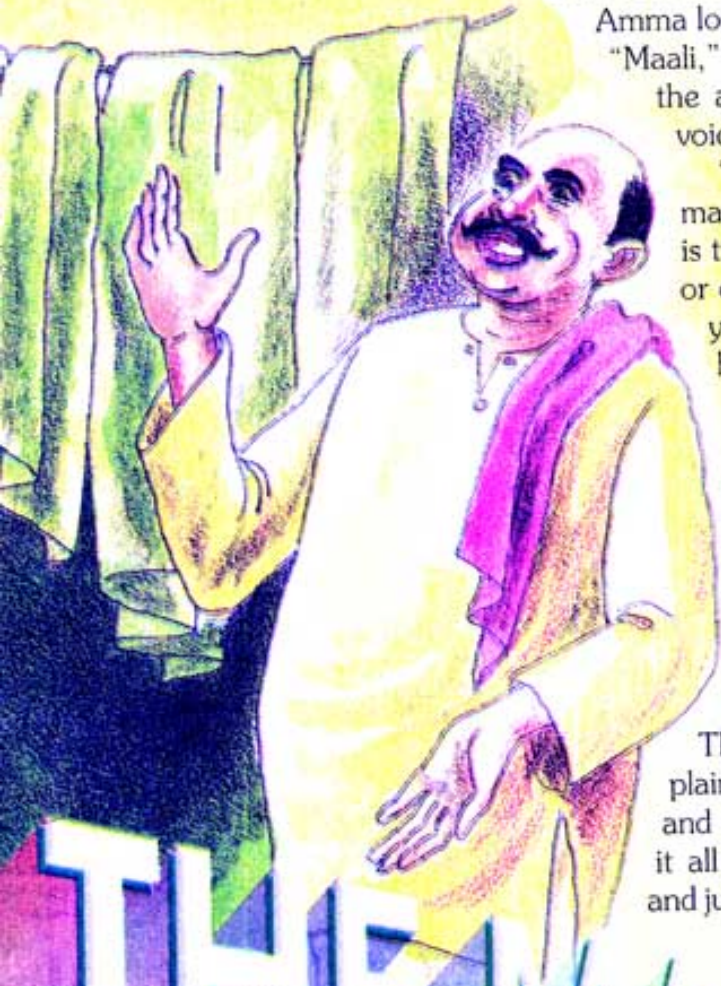
Amma Has to Know

The maali sighed and looked at Eashwar, who was staring anxiously at him. "I think you should know who I am and why I am here," said the maali, "But you should also know that I am telling this only because I do not want to lie to you."

Amma looked puzzled.

"Maali," she almost whispered, the anger gone out of her voice, "What is all this?"

"All this," replied the maali, "Just means that it is time for me to go home or elsewhere. Amma, can you come with me to my humble cottage?"



"I Can't Believe This"

"I can't believe this," Amma whispered.

They were sitting in the maali's cottage. The old man had just explained everything to Amma and Eashwar had listened to it all once again, fascinated and just a little frightened. The

maali smiled and shook his head. He said nothing. Eashwar suddenly asked him, "Can I see you as you are?"

"Well, you can," replied the maali, "But... not now... later, before I leave."

"Nobody will believe me if I tell them this," Amma muttered.

The maali turned to her sharply. "Nobody should know about me or my people," he said urgently, "If other humans, humans like scientists and others knew, they would try to find us and destroy us completely. We are peaceful living creatures!"

"Then... what do I tell Krishnan's mother?" Amma still looked confused and unhappy. "First, she does need to know of her son's bullying... but if Krishnan is really unwell or something... what do we do?"

"Leave it to me," said the maali, "Just give me a basket of fruit and I shall visit their home as if to deliver it to them... Then leave the rest to me..."

Visiting Krishnan

As the maali took the basket of fruits and turned to leave, Eashwar asked hesitantly, "May I come with you? I mean... if I have to apologise to Krishnan I will do it..."

"That's good of you," said Amma, who, since her visit to the maali's cottage, had been shaking her head and muttering to herself in confusion. "I hope this is a dream," she would suddenly say, from time to time.

Now, she suddenly jumped up from the chair she was sitting on and called out, "Maali, maali! You will take good care of Eashwar, won't you?"

The maali nodded, smiled reassuringly and went out of the gate, with Eashwar at his heels. As they walked down the road, the maali said, "See, that's the problem with adults. What they don't understand, they are frightened of. Were you frightened when I told you who I was?"

"I was a little frightened before you told me about yourself," said Eashwar, "Now I am not!"

They reached Krishnan's house after ten minutes of brisk walk, and rang the doorbell. Krishnan's mother peered out of the window to see who it was. When she saw Eashwar, she frowned, then opened the door. "What have you done, Eashwar?" she demanded, "Krishnan keeps muttering about ghosts and other creatures. I think I have to take him to the doctor... I shall report to the school principal..."

"Amma," the maali intervened, "We are so sorry for what happened to your boy. He saw some clothes hanging in my cottage and mistook them for strange creatures. I was with him and Eashwar had nothing to do with it. I have brought some fruits for him."

The maali placed the basket on a nearby table. Eashwar gulped. He was scared now. What was going to happen?

The Maali's Magic

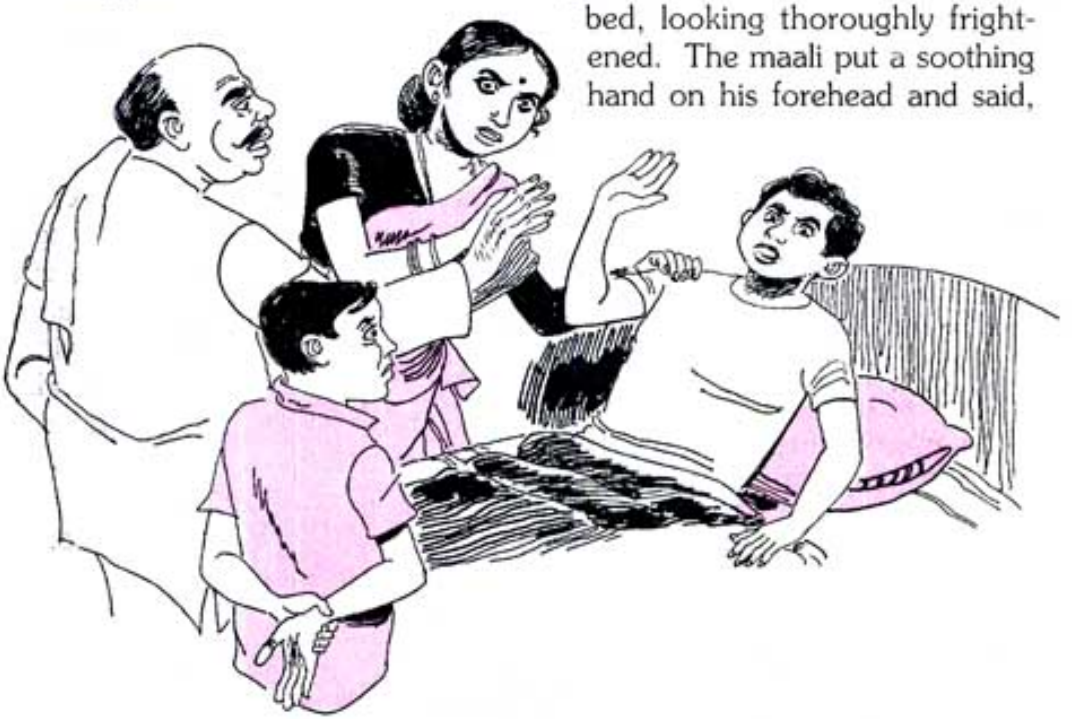
"Well," said Krishnan's mother, not mollified at all, "I don't think I'll allow you to see my son."

"I will see him and explain to him myself," said the maali gently, but firmly. His voice had now taken an almost hypnotic tone. "I will tell him myself," he intoned again.

Krishnan's mother hesitated and then said, "Okay..."

The maali took the opportunity and walked straight into the house, followed by Eashwar and Krishnan's mother. He seemed to find his way to Krishnan's room easily, as if he had been to that house before.

Krishnan was tossing and turning about in his bed, restlessly. "Amma!" he suddenly called out as if in fright. "Shhh, don't worry, I am here." It was the maali who spoke. Krishnan suddenly sat up in bed, looking thoroughly frightened. The maali put a soothing hand on his forehead and said,



ANSWERS TO CRISS - CROSS CORNER

"Relax, you saw nothing but my clothes hanging on the line..."

Krishnan just stared at him open-mouthed. The maali repeated what he had said before. Krishnan sighed and then said, "I know... I think I just got frightened." He turned to his mother. "Mamma," he said, "I want a drink of water."

As his mother went out of the room, the maali smiled at him and said, "Most of us get frightened of things that are actually harmless. We imagine we see dangerous things... But Krishnan, just remember... you are not a popular boy in school because you bully everybody... Just think... if you changed your ways, how many friends you would have! Eashwar, for instance...?"

Time to Leave

As they walked back home each immersed in his own thoughts, the maali suddenly said, "Eashwar, it's time for me to leave." Eashwar did not know what to say. "What?" he stuttered.

"Yes Eashwar," said the maali, "I have to go. To have my identity discovered like this is not good for me or my people. I will have to leave in a way natural to you humans. I'll have to tell your parents that I have to go back to my village..."

"Maali," said Eashwar, "My mother knows who you are."

"I know that," was the reply, "But I also know that she will slowly need to 'un-remember' what she saw and heard that day. Like I did to Krishnan, I will have to suggest to her that what she saw and heard was just a dream or some imagination on her part."

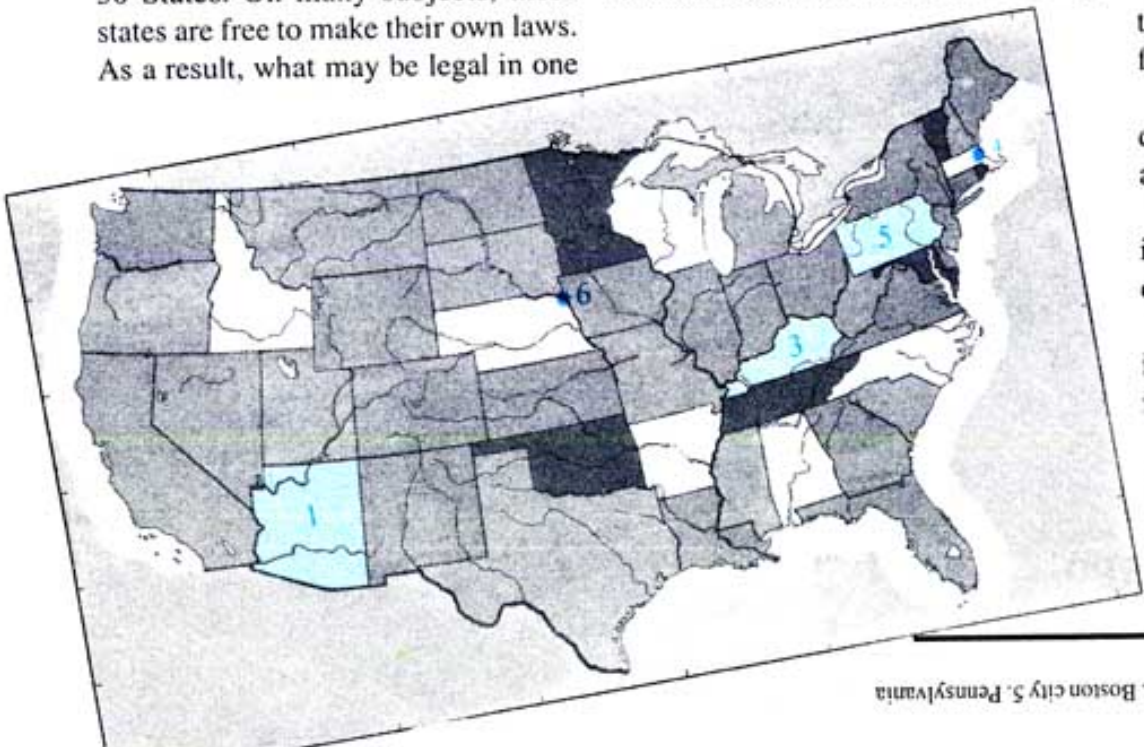
"But," said Eashwar, "What about the work you are doing here, among us humans?"

"That," said the maali, "Is what you have to do for me. You will have to continue my work."

Next month : **How would the maali leave?**

SOME STRANGE LAWS

As you know, the United States of America is made up of 50 States. On many subjects, these states are free to make their own laws. As a result, what may be legal in one state may not be so in another. Given below are some strange laws which are / were in force in the states / cities of USA. We have not mentioned the names of these states / cities. Look at the key given on the map (the numbers and shaded areas) and find for yourself the names of these states / cities. Look at the bottom of this page if you are not able to...



1. It is illegal to hunt camels!
2. It is illegal to look at a moose from the window of an aeroplane or any other flying object!
3. Every citizen of this state is required by law to take a bath at least once a year!
4. In 1845, an ordinance was passed in this city banning bathing without a doctor's prescription!
5. A minister of a church of this state is not authorised to perform a marriage, if either the bride or the groom is drunk!
6. A man was once tried and convicted in this city for wearing a false moustache in church.

- R. Balasundaram, Mumbai

Answers : 1. Arizona 2. Alaska 3. Kentucky State 4. Boston city 5. Pennsylvania 6. City of Omaha

THE GREAT SCHOLARS

(retold from an old folk tale)

Story sent by : Bhavani K. Swamy,
Std. VII, SIAHS, Thane
Illustration : Pillai

Madan went in next.
What do you think of Gopal?
Why, he's a real donkey. Thinks he's too wise.
All right. I'll see you later.
The sage decided to teach the two idiots a lesson. So -
You are both wise men. I want to honour both of you. Here please accept this.
Gopal and Madan opened the boxes.
Same here. What does all this mean?
What! Grass?!
That's what donkeys and asses like after all...
The scholars hung their heads in shame. They had learnt their lesson.

"We'll call the show 'Scooby Doo, where are you?' and we'll make the dog the star of the show." With these words, Scooby Doo was created along with the support of the other characters.

THE SCOOBY DOO SERIES

Fred Silverman was the head of the Daytime Programming for CBS channel. He wanted a show that would lead the viewers into a world of adventure and comedy and approached Hanna - Barbara the famous makers of cartoons. After a lot of discussion, Hanna - Barbara allocated to writers Ken Spears and Joe Ruby the duty of creating the plot, the characters and major part of the story lines. The first version of this famous series revolved around four teenage investigators travelling in a van called the 'Mystery Machine' accompanied by a Great Dane of no real prominence. There was no hint of comedy here. It was just a serious detective series. The show was then called 'Mysteries Five'. In the year 1969, during autumn season, it was presented to Frank Stanton, president of the top CBS management. The show was found to be inappropriate for the viewing of children as it had too much vio-

lence and fright in it. So, the show was rejected.

While flying back to LA, Silverman was listening to his earphones. The song 'Strangers in the Night' sung by Frank Sinatra was being played. The lyrics included the phrase 'Scooby-dooby-doo'. This phrase created such an impression on Silverman that he re-

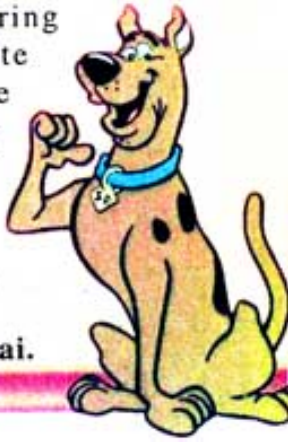
turned back and announced,

"We'll call the show 'Scooby Doo, where are you?' and we'll make the dog the star of the show." And with these words, Scooby Doo was created along with the support of the other characters.

The first Scooby Doo series was premiered at 10.30 am on 13th September 1969 on CBS channel. It was elevated to fame from that very moment. Scooby's first television special was aired in the year 1979. Scrappy Doo, the nephew of Scooby Doo was introduced as well in the year 1979. During the eighties, combinations of Scooby and his friends were introduced all of which continue to entertain kids and grown-ups alike. Scooby Doo is even now one of the world's largest running cartoons. Currently, in an average week, nearly two million viewers tune in to watch the Scooby-Doo series on Cartoon Network. Fred, Daphne, Shaggy and Velma have together starred in 310 episodes!

That was some information! Now for lots of fun, we present the Scooby Doo quiz. Test your knowledge by answering these questions. Write down your answers. Give yourself 5 points for every right answer. Quick, turn to **page 55**

- Ankita Shreeram, Std. VIII, Holy Angels H.S., Mumbai.



LAUGHING FITS

"I would like to buy this toy!"

"A piece costs Rs.100."

"No. I don't want a piece. I want it as a whole!"

- M. Vinodh, Sankarankovil

Son : I am determined to get an 'A' in my report card someday Dad.

Father : Why not this term?

Son : I am not that determined yet!

- T. Senthilkumar, Std.IX, PSBB, Chennai

Owner : You stupid! That plate costs a hundred rupees. Your salary is only fifty rupees. How can you pay for it?

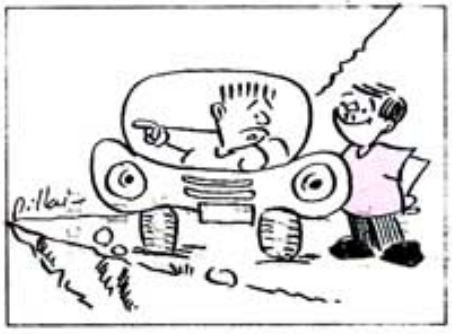
Servant boy : Well, I could, if you gave me a raise of fifty rupees.

- K. Siddharth, Std. IX, SBOA Matric, Coimbatore

Tourist : This seems to be a very dangerous cliff. It's a wonder they don't put up a warning sign.

Native : They had put one up for four years. No one fell over, so they removed it.

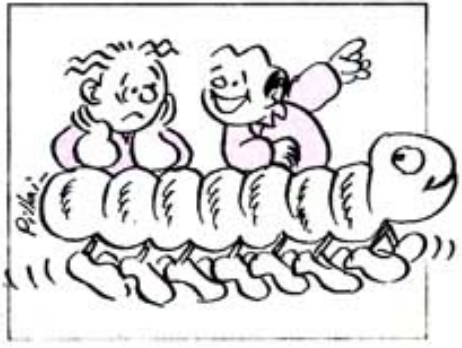
- R.V. Selvakumar, Std.IX, Sainik School, Erode



Kittu : Why are millipedes not allowed to play a football match?

Mittu : Well, the game would get over by the time, the millipedes put on their shoes!

- J. Deepti Shekar, Std.IX, M.M.H.S., Mysore



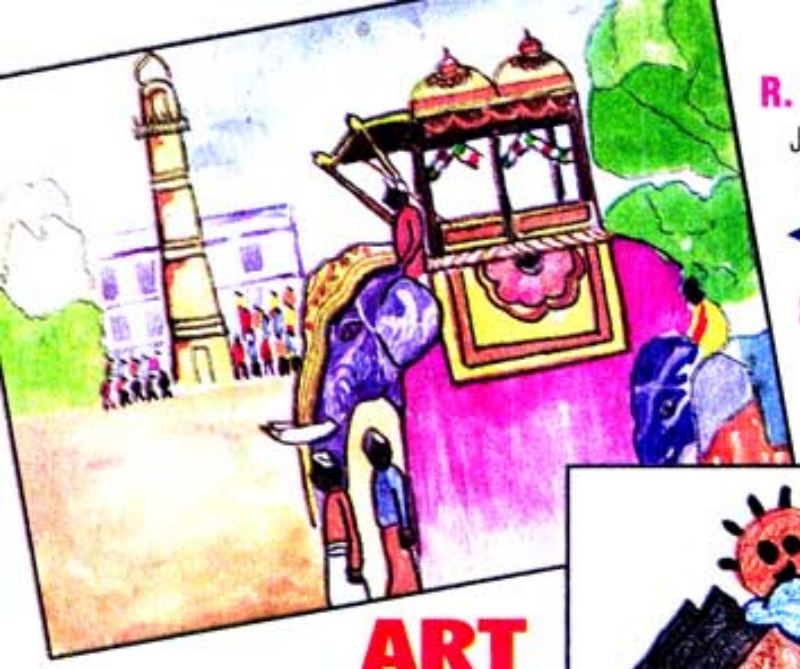
SCOOBY DOO QUIZ

1. What is Shaggy's real name?
2. What is Scooby Doo's full name?
3. What type of dog is Scooby Doo?
4. Where was Scooby Doo born?
5. What is Velma's trademark exclamation and what does it mean?
6. What is Shaggy's favourite word?
7. What was Shaggy's first toy?
8. What profession did Fred take up after leaving the show?
9. From where did the gang get the money to set up their investigation club 'Mystery Inc'?
10. Who is Shaggy's uncle?
11. What are the names of Scooby's brothers and cousins?
12. What does Scooby Doo say when he is very happy?

- A.S., Std. VIII, Holy Angels H.S., Mumbai.

ANSWERS:

1. Norville 'Shaggy' Rogers
2. Scoobert Doo
3. A Great Dane
4. Knittingham puppy farm
5. 'Jinkies' It means that she has found a vital clue.
6. 'Zoinks'
7. A waste disposal unit
8. A mystery novelist
9. Daphne's father donated the money for the gang's club.
10. Shaggworthy
11. A brother called Howdy Hoo, cousins called Scooby Dee, Whoopsy Doo and Dooby Doo.
12. Rooby - dooby - doo!



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Title Given		Corresponding Answers
1. Curling Up For Protection	:	Armadillo (three - banded)
2. The Great Indian Scientist	:	Dr. Jagdish Chandra Bose
3. The Olympic Games	:	Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, Red
4. Hairy Faces	:	Roald Dahl
5. The Other Name	:	Great bear (or) Big dipper
6. In Indian History...	:	Chandragupta Maurya and Chanakya
7. Medical Invention	:	X-Ray
8. Little Country In The Mountains	:	Switzerland

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12. Nigilya Mani, Secunderabad
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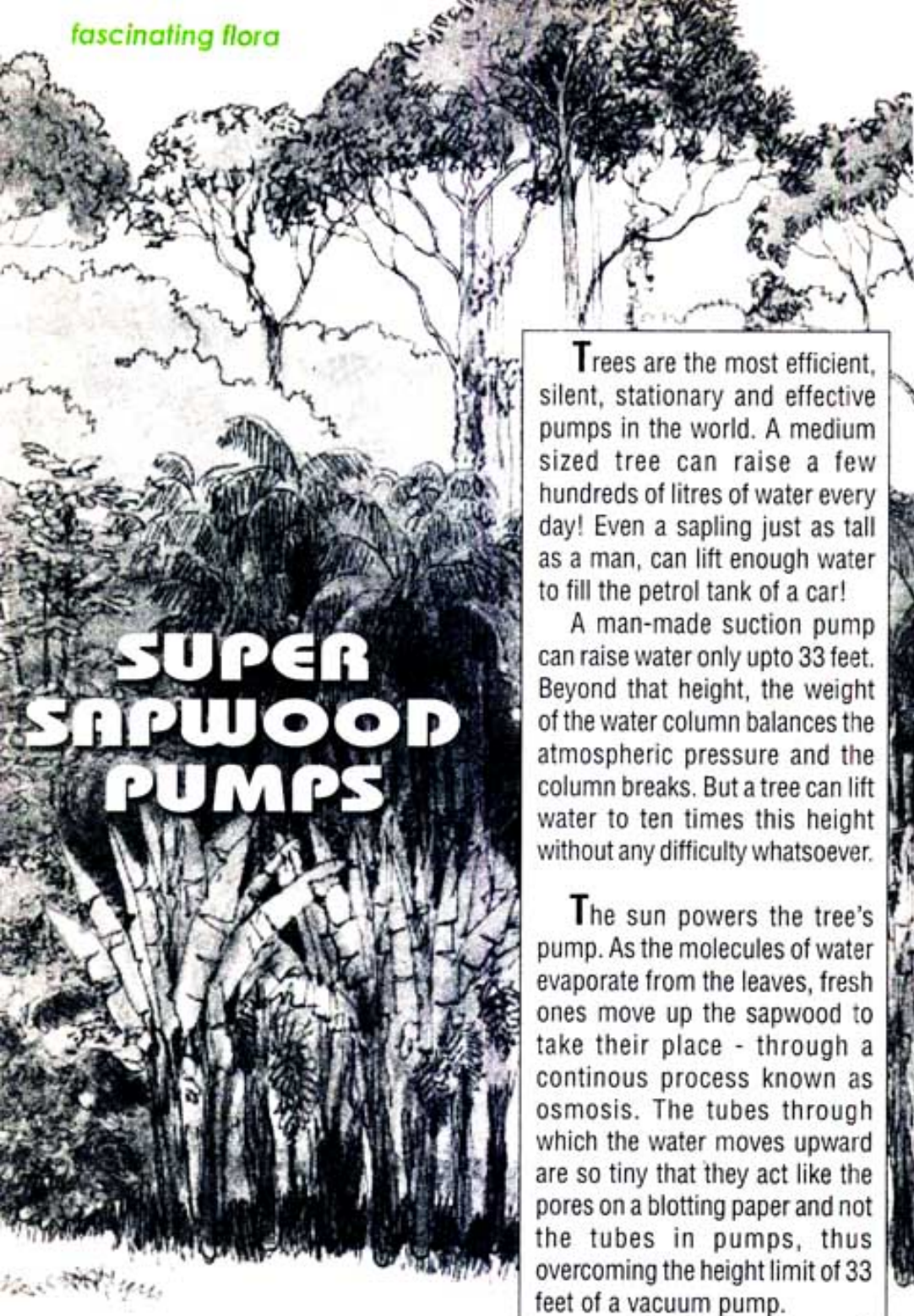


SUPER SAPWOOD PUMPS

Trees are the most efficient, silent, stationary and effective pumps in the world. A medium sized tree can raise a few hundreds of litres of water every day! Even a sapling just as tall as a man, can lift enough water to fill the petrol tank of a car!

A man-made suction pump can raise water only upto 33 feet. Beyond that height, the weight of the water column balances the atmospheric pressure and the column breaks. But a tree can lift water to ten times this height without any difficulty whatsoever.

The sun powers the tree's pump. As the molecules of water evaporate from the leaves, fresh ones move up the sapwood to take their place - through a continous process known as osmosis. The tubes through which the water moves upward are so tiny that they act like the pores on a blotting paper and not the tubes in pumps, thus overcoming the height limit of 33 feet of a vacuum pump.

- Visalakshmi Ramani, Coimbatore

What is ECG?

● **Nagarajkumar, Vishakapatinam.**

? ***What is ECG?***

! An electrocardiogram or ECG is a test widely used by doctors to assess the condition of the heart non-invasively. It is a graphical representation of the bio-electrical activities of the heart muscle. It is used to evaluate the health of heart muscles and the status of its conduction systems. An ECG machine (Electrocardiograph) is used to record an ECG. We all know our heart works like a pump. This pumping action is in response to electrical impulses originating in the heart itself. A regular stream of pacing impulses is generated by sino-atrial node situated in the upper part of the right side of the heart. These impulses are conducted to all parts of the heart muscles from top to bottom. These cause the heart to contract and beat. An electrocardiograph picks up and records these impulses as a series of wavy lines on a paper. A normal heartbeat makes a specific pattern of waves. Any damage to the heart or its conduction system changes the pattern. An ECG can tell us the size and position of the heart, any irregularities in the rate and rhythm of its beat, status of blood supply to the heart muscles, the location and damage caused by a heart attack, birth defects in the heart and the effects of certain drugs on the heart. It was invented in 1903 by the Dutch physiologist Willem Einthoven. An ECG machine can be connected to an oscilloscope, which displays the impulses as a live visual graph on a television - type screen.

DR. G.GANESAN, RAJAPALAYAM

PENPALS

GLOBE TROTTING!

Name : **Bidhi Samantray**
Age : 10
Address : Qr no v/f - 6,
OUAT colony, Unit - 8,
Bhubaneswar -3
Orissa
Hobbies : Reading books, collecting stamps and coins.

Name : **A. Sonali**
Age : 15
Address : E 2/2, Unit 4,Old settlement, Kharagpur, (West Bengal)
Hobbies : Dancing and listering to music.

Name : **R. Vineela**
Age : 13
Address :Door no: 6 - 5 - 521,
Andhra Bank colony,
Anantapur - 515 004.
Hobbies : Reading G.K.books and comics, playing basket ball, reading Gokulam, watching T.V., making friends and collecting stamps.

Name : **R. Alagappan**
Age : 14
Address : 174/1, Golden Jubilee flats, Padikuppan Road, Anna Nagar West, Chennai - 600 040.
Hobbies : Singing, playing the key board and guitar, reading books, cycling, playing games on the computer, collecting stamps and coins, drawing, painting and playing basket ball.

Name : **Sanjaya De Silva**
Age : 17
Address : No. 150/13/1,
Mullegama, Homagama, Sri Lanka.
Hobbies : Reading, listening to music and watching T.V.

Name : **G.Madhu Mitha**
Age : 11
Address : No. 24A, Ellathamman Nagar, IAF Road, (friends colony), Avadi, Muthapudupet, Chennai - 600 055
Hobbies : Drawing, making penpals, watching T.V., reading stories and playing volley ball.

Name : **E. Neelakandan**
Age : 12
Address : 5/A, Lakshmikanthan Street, Pondy bazzar, Chennai - 600 017.
Hobbies : Playing cricket, reading books and playing videogames.

Name : **K.Kannan**
Age : 13

Address : B-7/504, Saket Complex, Thane (w) Majiwada - 400 601.

Hobbies : Cycling, watching cricket, playing games on the computer and reading books.

Name : **Monica Stephina**

Age : 11

Address : 123,2nd Cross, Jakkasandra block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034

Hobbies : Playing hockey, reading, creative writing, art and making new friends.

Name : **Swathi. B**

Age : 13

Address : 'SHAKTHI', #545, 11th Cross, 4th Main, II stage, W.O.C. Road, Bangalore - 560 086

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, drawing and painting, making pen friends.

Name : **C. Hariharan**

Age : 10

Address : 456, Karpaga Nagar 14th st., K.Pudur, Madurai - 625 007.

Hobbies : Reading books, playing chess, listening to music, playing on the guitar and keyboard and playing computer games.

Name : **Malini Thangaraj**

Age : 14

Address : 759, Jalan Rasah Pandamaran, 42000, Port Klang, Selangor D.E., Malaysia.

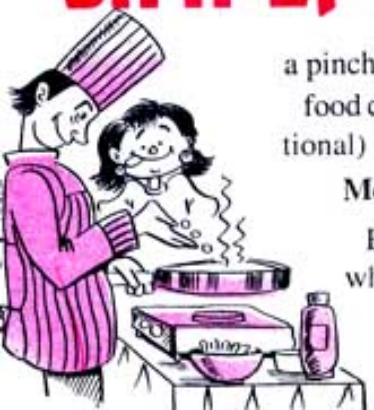
Hobbies : Reading books, listening to music and internet surfing.

BUDDING CHEF

SIMPLY DIVINE!

Ingredients

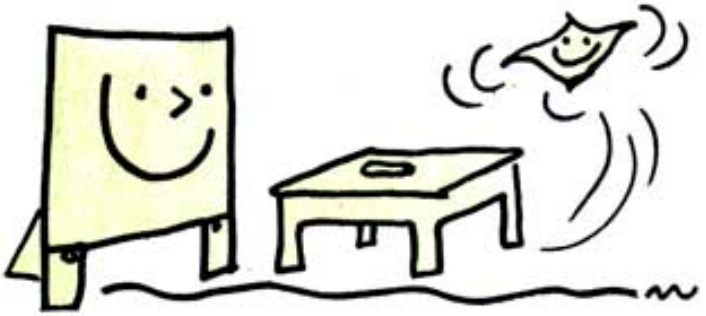
2 cups sugar
½ cup water
½ cup white corn syrup
1 egg white stiffly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
½ cup broken nuts
a pinch of salt and
food colouring (optional)



Method:

Beat the egg white in a large bowl and keep aside. In a saucepan, boil the sugar, water and corn syrup, stirring gently. The mixture is done if it forms a soft ball when a tablespoonful is dropped into cold water. When the mixture is set, pour it over the beaten egg white, beating continuously. Add vanilla essence, nuts, a pinch of salt and a few drops of red or green food colouring if desired. Beat this mixture until it is almost hard, then drop by the teaspoonful onto waxed paper, to make pieces of this simply divine 'sweet corn balls'!

- Archana Kujur,
Std IX, Meghmala Roy Education Centre, Behala, Kolkata.



PAPER IS PRECIOUS

(a one-act play to enact in your classroom)

Characters :

Pappu *(the paper)*
Rajesh *(student)*
Kaalu *(the black board)*
Children *(other students)*
Mrs. Kiran *(class teacher)*
Chimpu *(the chalk)*

Costumes suggested :

Pappu : *News paper / paper pinned all around*

Kaalu : *Can be dressed in black from head to toe and must be stationed in one place.*

Chimpu : *Wearing a garland and crown made of chalk by stringing pieces of chalk together, standing near Kaalu.*

Pappu : Rajesh, please do not tear me.

(Rajesh tears pieces of paper pulling them off Pappu.)

Kaalu : *(sighing)* Pappu. No use telling these children. They don't realise your importance. I am really sorry for you.

(Pappu falls wearily on the floor and -)

Pappu : Its really not their fault Kaalu. They are children. It is the elders who must teach them.

Kaalu : If only they knew how precious and useful you are to this world...

(Rajesh continues to pull off pieces of paper and runs back to his place when Mrs. Kiran walks in.)

Mrs. Kiran : *(angrily)* What's all this? Who threw these bits of paper here? Come on tell me.

(Mrs. Kiran begins to pick up the pieces of paper on the floor.)

Children : *(shouting together)* Rajesh miss! It was Rajesh.

Mrs. Kiran : Is that true Rajesh? Come along! Come here!

(Rajesh walks up to Mrs. Kiran.)

Mrs. Kiran : Rajesh, paper is the most precious thing in the world. It is also very useful for storing knowledge...

Rajesh : But my father has a computer. He stores all the knowledge in it or in a floppy.

DRAMA

Mrs. Kiran: Yes, I understand that's very true. But, most of the time, you need paper to get a print out, don't you? Pick up these pieces of paper dear and I shall talk to you all about our environment.

Rajesh : What does envi... environ... environment mean?

Mrs. Kiran : It's the place around us - our homes, the soil, air, water, trees, plants... We must learn to keep our environment clean.

Rajesh : What can we do to keep it clean? Will you please teach us?

Mrs. Kiran : What you did just now has made our classroom dirty. Hasn't it, Rajesh? We spoil the soil around us by throwing plastic, chemicals and other things that make our soil poisonous, killing plants and trees. Water around us also gets polluted. Can anyone tell me how?

Child 1 : Oil leaks and throwing of garbage?

Mrs. Kiran : That's right. Wastage from industries also pollutes water.

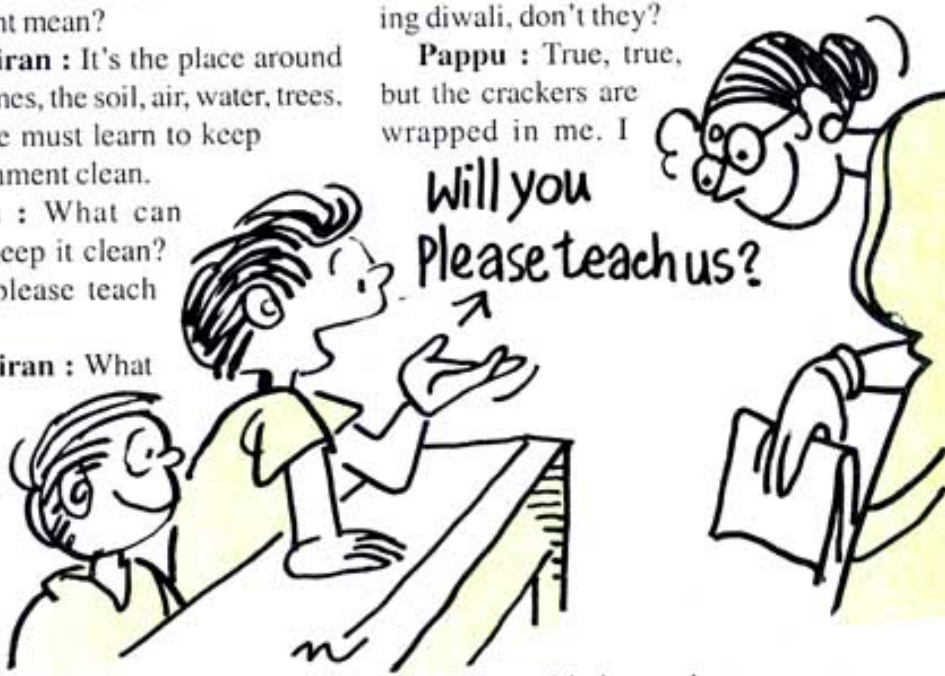
Child 2 : Does smoke from factories pollute air, miss?

Mrs. Kiran : Certainly. It's not only smoke from the factories, but also smoke from vehicles and diwali crackers...

Pappu : *(slowly getting up)* Diwali is the worst time of the year for me. Oh! How I dread did! How much I suffer...

Chimpu : What are you talking about? They burst only crackers during diwali, don't they?

Pappu : True, true, but the crackers are wrapped in me. I burn along with the crackers you see...



Chimpu : *(wiping away the tears in his eyes)* Poor you!

Mrs. Kiran : *(helping pappu to sit down)* Rajesh, do you like trees?

Rajesh : Yes miss. I love climbing on them. I also enjoy reading a book, sitting under a shady tree...

Mrs. Kiran : Trees give us oxygen Rajesh. Oxygen that we breathe.

Child 3 : Trees also help to get more rainfall. I read about that in a book.

Mrs. Kiran : Very true. I am going to tell you all another important thing.

SHAKE 'N' SHIVER JOKER

Write a special message and gift this joker to your friend.

You will need : a sheet of white card paper, spring of any broken ball-pen, plastic lid of a bottle, glue and colours.

Method : Draw a joker's face and his waving arm on the sheet of white card paper. Colour the face and arms as you like.

Stretch the spring of the pen so that it becomes a little loose.

Cut out the joker's face and paste it on one end of the spring. (You can also use cello tape.)

Cover the plastic lid with white paper. Make a small hole in the centre of the lid and push the other end of the spring into it.

Write the message on the lid and gift the joker to your friend.

- A.S.Sreeyesh, Std VI, Holy family Convent School, Vasai (W)

Paper is made from trees. Look at Pappu. *(Mrs. Kiran walks up to Pappu)* Do you know where he came from? From a tree in some part of the world.

Children : Wow!

Mrs. Kiran : Paper is an important gift of Nature to man. We have no right to misuse or waste what nature provides us. We must use paper carefully and consciously.

Rajesh : How can we do that Mrs. Kiran?

Mrs. Kiran : We should use both sides of a paper when we write. We can reuse paper by making paper bags. We can also make many useful things using 'paper - mache.'

Rajesh : What is that miss Kiran?

Mrs. Kiran : We take long strips of used paper, soak them in water and grind the soaked paper into a paste. With this paste we can make little things for ourselves - pen stands, flower vases, wall hangings and so on. Moulds can be used over which the paper paste is pasted. This can then be allowed to dry in the sun and the mould removed from the model. We shall all make paper - mache models in tomorrow's class.

Children : Yeah! Yeah!

(Rajesh walks up to Pappu and shakes hands. Pappu gives Rajesh a hug.)

Kaalu : Aren't you happy now Pappu? Three cheers to Pappu. Hip, Hip, Hurray!

Children : Hip, Hip, Hurray!

(curtains)

Based on a story sent by

-Kanthalakshmi Chandramouli, Chennai.

APPU & KUKU IN

LIKE MOM.. LIKE SON

STORY & PICTURES J. DISNEY

GOODEVENING MRS. BEAR! WHERE IS BUNTY?

OH MY GOD! I WAS PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK WITH MY KID, AND I FELL ASLEEP. NOW I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.

DON'T WORRY, WE WILL FIND HIM FOR YOU.

GRRRRR GRRRR..!

WHAT IS THAT TERRIBLE NOISE? LET'S GO AND CHECK.

YOUR SON IS HERE, MRS. BEAR...
LIKE MOM - LIKE SON!
GRRRRR GRRRR..!
COLOUR THIS SLEEPY SCENE.

Through the Telescope

January 25, 2003 - it was a cold and breezy evening - the most memorable day for every member of our school's astronomy club.

Our principal explained to us, the construction of the 8" telescope through which we were to view the planets - that's what we had assembled for! Fortunately for us, the sky was clear.

The first student who gazed through the telescope almost screamed with joy. She had actually spotted the SATURN! There was so much excitement with each one of us waiting eagerly for our turn. It was the most beautiful sight. The planet looked very tiny with beautiful rings around it. We also spotted one of its satellites!

By the time we had finished with Saturn, it was time to see Jupiter. It was indeed a peculiar planet. It looked similar to the moon, except for two parallel lines on its surface. Some of us even spotted a belt around the planet. Below the planet were four of its satellites neatly aligned.

After dinner and a couple of hours of sleep, we were woken up at 4.00 am to see the Moon and Venus. Clad in sweaters, mufflers and monkey caps, we quickly assembled in the terrace. The clouds did pose a problem now, but not quite enough to ruin our excitement. Infact we were able to see three craters on the moon's surface!

We then gazed at Venus, the brightest of all planets. It very much resembled the sun at the horizon.

We were lucky that Jupiter had not set. We had another peep and this time got to see three moons above the planet.

Before we dispersed, our Principal gave us yet another piece of good news. He told us that in May, Mars will be closest to Earth in 400 years. He would try to organise for us to view it then. How thrilling!

- S. Vidya, Std. XI, Jaigopal Garodia Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar, Chennai.

Dear children,

Do let us know what's happening in your school. Share with us classroom experiences, little incidents and events (with photos, if possible) that took place within your school campus.

Please do give details - your name, age, class, name and address of school, residential address and a declaration that your contribution is based on a true incident. Good luck!

- Editor

GOKULAM - BSA
The monthly magazine for children Your best friend for life
CONTEST

QUIZ TIME

ST. JOHN'S

• Starting with a prayer

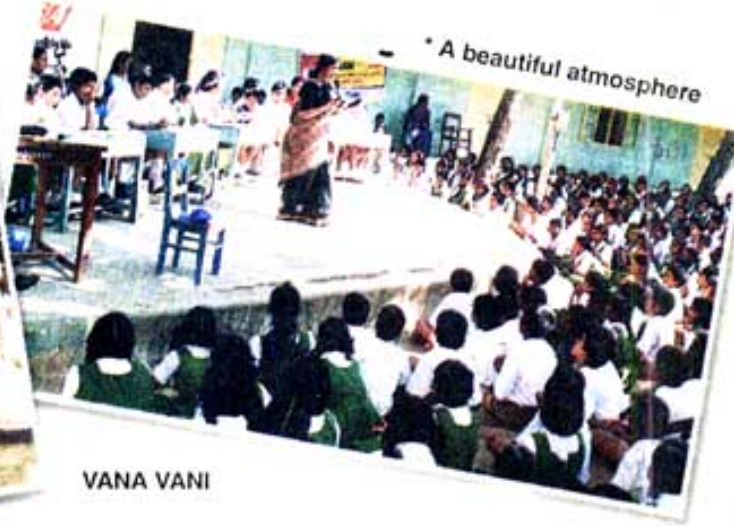
SUMI REPORTS...

A maiden journey is finally over. The Gokulam - BSA Quiz Time Contest had its curtain call, for this academic year, on January 21, 2003; a journey that started in October 2002 - what a journey it has been!

As we look back, we wonder how and with what audacity we went ahead with this programme. With neither the experience nor the expertise to fall back on, we did dare to venture. What we had in us was the energy, the enthusiasm and the desire to conduct a quiz of a different kind - a quiz of learning and fun; a quiz for students and teachers; a quiz that would be remembered long after it was over...

• Winners

• A beautiful atmosphere



VANA VANI

From the desks of the student reporters :

* Winners

* Participants

ST. JOHN'S

Kamana Prakash, Std. VIII, Vana Vani Matric

The excitement was on. The questions were easy. The very first round was thrilling. We knew the programme was going to be great!

We were very surprised to hear a piece from the film 'Kabhi Kushi Kabhi Gam!' being played in the audio round.

The teachers were simply amazing when they exhibited their talents!

The risk of losing points (due to negative marking) held the teams at bay in the round called 'first person up'. The participants were very cautious!

The riddles round was a very interesting and innovative round. The riddles sounded very simple but the answers were difficult!

There was audience participation throughout the programme. Children who answered correctly walked away proudly with caps. At the end of the programme too, a few questions were asked. Everyone was eager to answer and receive a cap!

The rapid fire round came as a grand finale. 'Yes' or 'No', that's what you had to say. Total concentration prevailed. Tension filled the air. It was the ultimate, 'turn of events' round.

We enjoyed this quiz more than any other quiz ever conducted in our school. We thank you Gokulam for conducting the quiz in our school.

VANA VANI

* We thank the organisers....

Lydia James George, Std.VIII, St. John's English School and Junior College

The auditorium was filled with excitement and anxiety as the organisers geared up for the show.

The participating teams had a variety of options to choose from, in the very first round. We were amazed to find them answering all the questions without a break.

The audio round got everyone dancing and singing. The music included a Sri Lankan Baila and a piece from Vengaboys.

It was during this programme that we students realised that apart from teaching, our teachers could also act! The auditorium was filled with laughter when our teachers acted out humorous sentences.

There was only one round with negative marking. Instead of buzzers, the novel idea of the 'first person to stand up' was put to practice!

Tension and nervousness prevailed in the final round. Very many obvious answers went wrong because of this. 'No's became 'Yes'es and 'Yes'es, 'No's.

The audience too benefitted from the quiz. When the teams failed to answer, the audience got a chance to, and caps were given on the spot. The person distributing the caps amongst the audience looked tired at the end of it!

We felt bad when the contest came to an end. Alas! All good things do come in small doses. But, let me tell you, "This was the day when each and every child realised that quiz programmes could be a lot of fun too."

WATCH OUT FOR A FREE BOOKLET ALONG WITH THE MAY 2003 ISSUE!

A note from the sponsors...

Gokulam conducted quiz contests for the students of classes VI, VII and VIII in twelve leading schools of Chennai. It was a great effort on the part of the Gokulam team to have organised this wonderful programme. The programme created a great impact on the students and invoked very good response from them.

We at TI Cycles of India (makers of BSA and Hercules brands of cycles) take great pride in having sponsored this successful event.

- V.Vijainath Raja,
Merchandising officer,
TI Cycles of India.

A Letter to Cherish...

Respected Sir,

Gokulam members came to our school and conducted a quiz programme. It was fantastic. Unlike any other quiz programme where the par-

ticipants get tense, this quiz was enjoyable and a lot of fun. Thanks to all the organisers.

- Harshini, Std. VIII, St. John's School and Junior College.

From a well-wisher...

I read all about the quiz programmes you are conducting and I think that you are doing a wonderful job. Please keep up the good work.

Your magazine has a lot of readers like us, overseas. I hope Gokulam can organise something for readers in Penang.

- Rani Sumathi, Penang, Malaysia

WE THANK YOU...

Dear children, for your boundless enthusiasm and high spirits. We thank each and everyone of you, participants and audience. We still carry your smiles and warm feelings with us...

Dear teachers, for your absolute and complete cooperation and participation. We thank you for your support and involvement. We still carry your suggestions and words of encouragement with us...

The schools, for your meticulous organisation. We thank the principal and the faculty of administrative, teaching and non-teaching staff. We still carry with us fond memories of our visit to your school...

The sponsors, for your unflinching support and backup. We thank you for everything. We still carry with us hopes of joining hands with you in the coming years...

Our dear Gokulam readers, for your feed back. We thank you and we shall bring to you a booklet of questions and answers of the **Gokulam - BSA Quiz Time contests,** absolutely free along with the May 2003 issue of your favourite magazine....

At the end of it all, we realise that there has been a tremendous sense of learning and an expanding of horizons for us, the organisers. We have come a long, long way evolving, changing, adapting and emerging better, wiser and stronger with each programme. ●

Photos : **Venkatesh**

*** typing blind folded (Vana Vani)**

*** Peacock dancing in the rain (St. John's)**

We have drive-in theatres and drive-in restaurants in our country. In Thailand, a unique drive-in cafe was opened recently. You need not drive your car into this cafe. The seats in the cafe are designed like various models of cars. Just hop into the cars, get yourselves comfortably seated and order your meal while watching your favourite movie! It is such a big hit among the Thais that it's always car full!

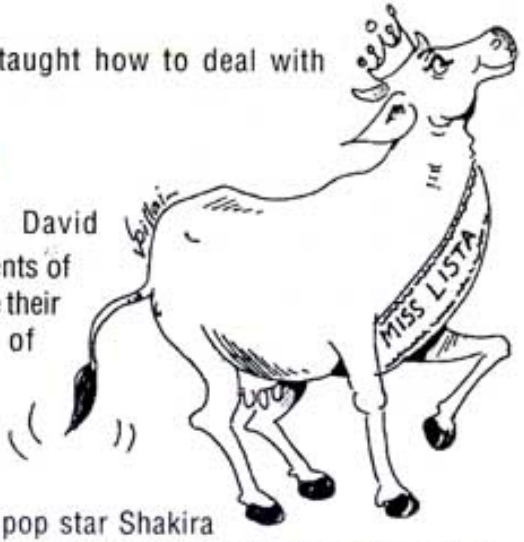
ALWAYS CAR FULL!

SEMINAR FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR!

Athens is getting ready for the Olympic games to be held next year. One thing that worries the organisers is the rude and unruly taxi drivers of the city. Hence the Greek parliament has announced recently that all taxi drivers of the country have to undergo a specially designed day long behavioural seminar where they will be taught how to deal with international visitors!

NAMES MATTER!

England soccer captain David Beckham's children inspired parents of 86 boys and 19 baby girls to name their baby Brooklyn, the name of Beckham's first son. Besides, 21 other babies were named Romeo, the name of his second son.



Columbian pop star Shakira was a bigger inspiration, with 221 girls getting that name last year. Amelie - the title of a French film - was chosen for 203 girls, and 468 girls were named Aaliyah, the name of the American singer who died in a plane crash in 2001.

Such is the influence of sport, pop music and cinema in England and Wales!

FOUR LEGGED BEAUTY QUEEN!

Miss Lista of Norway, is not a pretty young girl, but a cow! The dairy farmers of Lista, the place where the beauty pagent for the four legged beauties was held, gave the title Miss Lista to the best cow of the show. Two judges were present to select the Cattle Queen of Lista.

- Gautam Ram, Chennai

SARE JAHAN SE ACHA...

Amidst his extremely busy schedule, Mr. P. Chidambaram took time off to answer the thought - provoking questions received from our young readers. We were deeply touched to see each of these answers hand - written, clearly, neatly and legibly, with a lot of patience. An example set for every child to follow...

We thank Mr. Chidambaram profusely and reproduce here two such answers in his own handwriting...

- **B. Ravipriya, Hosur**

What is your advise to today's younger generation?

Dream big. Work to realize your dreams. Your dreams are the nation's dreams. When a million dreams are realized, India will become a stronger nation.

● **S. Sathyakanth, Nidamangalam**

May I know your friend, philosopher and guide?

My conscience. It is my conscience which tells me what is right and what is wrong, and I try to be on the side of what is right. I have many good friends and I enjoy these friendships.

● **P. Purnima, Delhi**

Sir, when will India become the richest country in the world?

We **are** a rich country. We **are** rich in resources, in history, in the arts, in culture. If you have in mind income-prosperity, we can aim to be a middle - income country in the next 20 - 25 years. But this requires a vision, hard work, social harmony and good governance.

● **Vineet D. Kamat, Mumbai**

We have every thing. But why are we still called a 'developing' nation? What will you suggest to rectify this?

We must aim high. We must aim for high growth. We must adopt policies which are forward looking and pragmatic. The laws of economics are not different for India. Above all, we must have good governance.

● **V. Shanmugasivanantham, Madurai**

How can we make India a supreme country in the world?

I want India to be poverty - free. We must get rid of the scourge of poverty which has been a stigma for nearly 5000 years. We must live in peace with our neighbours and with other countries of the world. What do you mean by supremacy? Do you have in mind becoming a super - power?

● **Subhajit De, Chattisgarh**

What were the good things that you wanted to do for our country as Finance Minister but were unable to do?

I wanted to open up more sectors of the economy, but because of the short tenure I was able to succeed only partially. I also wanted to begin downsizing the central government, taking the advice of the Fifth Pay Commission, but the government fell.

• R. Thomas Murphy, Trichy

Why do good people often lose the election battle? My grandpa says that politics is a muddle. Do you agree?

Politics is a difficult battleground. Not many good people will venture into it and, even if they do, not many can succeed. Besides, in recent years, criminals have entered politics. When you vote, you should vote for the good and honest candidates. If more good candidates succeed in politics, more such people will enter politics.

• Nudi Shree, Mysore

Do you think imposing income tax for each and every agriculturist is the right thing to do?

Most farmers do not have an income of a level which in amenable to income tax. Most are subsistence farmers. We should however examine the question of bringing into the tax net the very rich farmers who have large agricultural and non - agricultural incomes.

• C. Hariharan, Madurai

How can we stop the 'Brain Drain' from our country in order to pave way for the upliftment of our country and to help students like us in future?

If we can create conditions at home where every qualified Indian will have a job and opportunities for growth, and excellence will be rewarded, most Indians will be happy to live and work in India. Some Indians will migrate, but that cannot be avoided in an increasingly globalized economy.

• S. Bharath Kumar, Takkolam

Though the government has taken steps to ban smoking, people do continue to smoke in public places. As a lawyer, how would you overcome this problem?

You cannot legislate on the morals of the people, and hope that all will be well. There must be a sustained campaign against smoking. Such campaigns have achieved notable successes in many countries.

• T.S. Swathi, Bangalore

I am told that the black money prevailing in our country is hampering our economy. How far were you successful in curbing this menace as a Finance Minister?

Voluntary disclosure scheme (VDIS) was a resounding success. It had to be followed up by stern measures against tax evaders and further simplification of the tax administration. My government fell in March 1998, and the next government did

• with his wife Nalini

not follow up on the success of VDIS.

• I. Shailaja, Madurai

How to make India a debtless country?

There is no shame in borrowing. In fact, debts are a measure of the credit - worthiness of the country. The real issue is how are the borrowed monies used by the government.

• Sharon Stanley, Kanchi

What do you think is the greatest threat to India?

It is internal strife. The Romans called it "stassis". A nation that cannot hold its citizens together, bind them under one nationhood and ensure social harmony will break up. The erstwhile nation of Yugoslavia (remember Joseph Tito?) is an example. It has since broken into five republics.

• N. Mohanapriya, Minjur

Can students participate in politics? What is your advise?

You must be aware of political issues. Every citizen must keep himself or herself abreast of political developments. Whether you want to take an active part in politics will depend on your temperament, your family and your economic situation. If these factors are favourable, you should join a political party at a suitable stage of your life.

• G. Gayathri, Madurai

Today's terrorists were yesterday's students. What kind of words, deeds and thoughts can prevent them from terrorism?

Terrorism is a by product of other social and economic evils. No one is born a terrorist. If a person feels that he is persecuted and if he loses all hope, if his cry for justice goes unheeded, is there any surprise that he will take to the path of violence? Barring a few megalomaniacs like Osama Bin Laden, all others are first victims, and then they turn into oppressors and terrorists. We should create conditions of equality, equal opportunity and justice for all sections of the people.

Co-ordinator : **Priyan Srinivasan**

"WE LOVE; WE CARE"

Extremely popular as an animal welfare activist and an environmentalist...

MANEKA GANDHI

answers your questions in the May 2003 issue

A SUBJECT THAT ALL CHILDREN MUST BE AWARE OF...

Send in your questions relating to

ANIMAL WELFARE & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Star Rendezvous
C/o Gokulam
Kalki Buildings, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097

- **Last date : 22.03.2003**
- **Only one question allowed**
- **Write only on a postcard**
- **Mention details of your name, age, class and school. Also give your residential address.**

PUZZLE TIME

I. Find the metals hidden in these sentences.

(i) A bee's sting is very painful.

(ii) The cop persuaded the innocent thief that he would soon be released.

(iii) The strong old ship was built in the year 1959.

(iv) The fastest eel was proud of itself to have won the race.

(v) Nick, Ellora and Peter went to the zoo yesterday.

(vi) Jacob altered his architecture.

- P.R. Sinduja, Std. VI, National Public School, Bangalore.

II. Here are six squares with a six letter word in each. They are all jumbled up. Try re-arranging them. The clues will help.

T	J	S
E	R	E

(i) clown

V	E	S
I	R	L

(ii) a metal

S	E	U
R	C	E

(iii) save from danger

H	Y	M
A	E	M

(iv) destruction

P	S	M
A	L	A

(v) Fourth state of matter

R	L	A
C	E	L

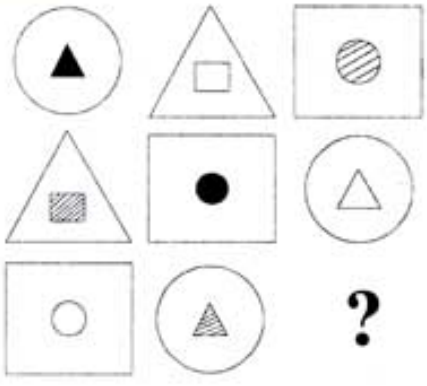
(vi) to recollect

III. RIDDLES AND GIGGLES

1. Why is the moon hungry?
2. What wobbles when it flies?
3. Where do spooks buy their stamps?
4. What do you call a creature with 7 eyes, 3 noses, 4 ears and 5 mouths?
5. Why did the man put the radio in the oven?

- Mafrooha Noohu, Std. VII, Crescent Schools International, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

IV. Find the missing figure comparing with the other rows. Select the correct figure from the numbered options.



3. Paper c. India
4. Zero d. Egypt

- S. Sadhwi, Std.VIII,
Sardar Patel High School,
Bangalore.

VI a) Who are they?

Two brothers, twins, live on opposite sides of a road. They see everything around them but they never see each other. Who are they?

b) When can you?

When can you travel as fast as a racing car?

- M. Vinodh,
Sankarankovil

Options : 1. ▲ 2. ▲ 3. △ 4. ● 5. ■ 6. ▲

- Neeraj S. Kallimani,
Std. IX, St. Paul's HS,
Belgaum.

V. Can you?

a) Can you make two squares and fours right angled triangles using only 8 straight lines?

b) Can you match the invention with its place of invention :

1. Shadow clock a. Mesopotamia (middle east)
2. Wheel b. China

ANSWERS

I. (i) Tin (ii) Copper (iii) Gold (iv) Steel (v) Nickel (vi) Cobalt

II. (i) Jester (ii) Silver (iii) Rescue (iv) Mayhem (v) Plasma (vi) Recall

III. Riddles and Giggles

1. Because it is not a full moon! 2. A Jelly - copter! 3. At the ghost office! 4. Ugly! 5. Because he wanted to hear hot music!

IV. Option 6. Reason : Circle, Triangle and square may be an outer or an inner figure. The inner figure may be black, white or shaded. Each feature occurs only once in each row and column.

V. Can you?

a)

b) 1 -d , 2 -a , 3 - b, 4 - c.

VI a) Our eyes; b) When you're driving the car, or when you are seated inside it!

GOKULAM

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The Magazine for Children

NO EXCUSES PLEASE!

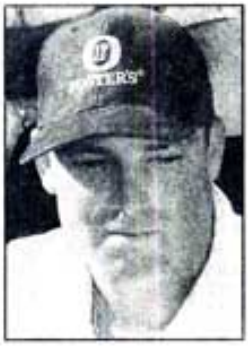
Dear Reader...

What can be more disgraceful than Shane Warne being withdrawn from the Australian squad?

The excuses he gave!

"I am shocked by the allegations" he says. "I would not knowingly take a substance which contained any form of a performance enhancing drug. I took a fluid reduction tablet, which I did not know contained a prohibited substance."

An experienced sportsman like Shane Warne should not give excuses.



May be his 'B' sample tested in Australia will yield a negative result and perhaps he may even return to his team.

Yet, the excuse he gave is unpardonable. He ought to know better. Before taking any medicine he should have consulted the team doctor. For that matter, he could have had the best medical advice available in Australia. All that he had to do was ask for it. He didn't do it. But he chooses to put on a mask of innocence.

Many a time we fail. Let us take it in our stride and act gracefully. Whether losing a game, failing in an exam, not doing one's duty or just plain mischief at home, let us be really sportive and not give excuses.

Failure can be accepted; but giving excuses cannot be tolerated. The worst thing that anyone can do is to give excuses for his failures.

- Editor

SPOT THE FIVE DIFFERENCES

Answers: 1. Missing finger 2. Missing bone 3. Tongue 4. Belt 5. Shoe

Easy to draw

FIND THE ODD ONE OUT

Answer: Cat (All other animals are herbivores)

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